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United Nations Forum on Forests
Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the international arrangement on forests
First meeting
Nairobi, 24-28 February 2014
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Tasks of the Expert Group

Compilation of Views and Proposals by Member States and Other Relevant Stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forests

Summary

Member States at the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held from 8 to 19 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey, adopted Resolution 10/2 through which they agreed to undertake several preparatory intersessional activities in preparation for the eleventh session of the Forum. According to this Resolution, countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations and other relevant organizations, relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to submit views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests to the Secretariat. The Forum's Secretariat is also requested to ensure these views are made available to the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group on the international arrangement on forests. This present document is the compilation of these views and proposals which were submitted to the Secretariat mid-January 2014. It contains 46 submissions namely from Angola, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States, EU, and one joint and one individual submission from major group.

Please recycle

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Permanent Mission of
The Republic of Angola to the United Nations
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Tel: (212) 861-5656 Fax: (212) 861-9295

No. 1/001 9 January 2014

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and, in response to the Note by the Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau, has the honour to submit herewith the imputs of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Angola on Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) the assurances of its highest consideration.

SECRETARIAT
UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

CC: Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi
Ms. Thida Sam

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Agriculture

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Not so sure, but we consider that is sufficient.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The UNFF has had some progress towards achieving or implementing its principal functions, but less than what was hoped. Its key achievements are attached with the strenghtening of political commitment and action at all levels for the implementation of sustainable forest management and the global objectives on forests, by providing of the framework for international cooperation on forest and for national action under the principles of Non-legally Binding Instruments (NLBI) on all types forest.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: The major challenge confronting the performance of UNFF is the fulfilment of its mandate, is the declining on raising new and increased financial resources to suport sustainable forest management and to reverse the loss on forest cover. Any future options for the UNFF must ensure the generation predictable and appropriate financial resources from all sources, to support the implementation of SFM and the NLBI in the developing african countries , as wellas in the small developing islands.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: We fell that the potential role UNFF could play, will depend on its ability to mobilize political, financial, scientific and technical support for SFM , and built on the rich experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and thus, translating the global forest commitments into action.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Although SFM is a challenge of a global concern, many of the solutions are found at the regional and local level. Country-Led Initiatives (CLI) and AHEGs plays a critical role to work of the UNFF in filling the gap between local expertise and successful initiatives and international decision-making level. Therefore it is fundamental to empower them in order to have a prompt and effective response to the needs and priorities at international , regional and local levels.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: we consider that the role and participation of MGS is inefficient, week and does not add substantive value to the work of the UNFF. Any improvement to its further engagement, should refer to the creation of a clear and formal mechanism of interaction with the UNFF in order to enhance its active participation in the processes that contributes to decision-making, planing and implementation of estrategic policies and programmes for SFM.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: The celebration of international yaer of forest-2011 and the international day of forest has helped to increase existing awareness on the environmental and economic importance of forests and its contribution to social development and food secutity, through sustainable provision of services, empleyment, incomes, comodities, including poverty alleviation. In organizing events and activities to celebrate the year and day, counties have contributed to the global platform for sharing information and success stories and best pratices on SFM.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:With regrad to GOF1, we consider that progrss can be improved supporting afforestation and reforestation actions or activities in the developing countries of Africa and South America regions, where de deforestation rate and loss of forest cover is high. Others GOFs , we are not sure on the way to improve progrss.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Not sure

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Not sure

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

☐ Adequate
☒ Inadequate
☒ Not sure

Additional explanation: Concerning the financial resources, it obsisly that are not sufficient or inadequate for the Secretariat to cary out its job. But with regard to the structure and humanresources, we are not sure.Seem to be there is surplus of human resources in the Secretariat for the job that is supposed to be done.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: It is imperative that the Secretariat reduce unnecessary expenditure and bureaucratic inefficiencies .

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Not sure

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Not sure
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Not sure

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Mobilize financial contribution from all resouces including voluntary contributions of the private sector and the reation of a Voluntary Global Forest Fund, in order to make available predictable and sufficient financial resouces to the developing countries. This should followed by the identification and strengthening of other financing opportunities at national level, including the creation of independent National Forest Funds (NFF), using the combination of approaches to feed it
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Not sure

Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
to the United Nations

255/13

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and has the honour to refer to latter's Note No: UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16th July, 2013 soliciting views and proposals from Member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forest (IAF).

In this regard, please see the attached Views and Proposals of The Bahamas on the same.

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

2 December, 2013 New York, N.Y. 10017

Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations

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New York, N.Y. 10017

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Immigration
P.O. Box N-3746
Goodman's Bay Corporate Centre
Nassau, N.P.,
The Bahamas

30th October, 2013

Note No. MFA/269

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York and has the honour to refer to the latter's letter No. UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16th July, 2013 soliciting views and proposals from Member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forest (IAF).

The Ministry has the further honour to transmit the Views and Proposals of The Bahamas on the same.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat in New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
United Nations
New York, USA.

Bahamas 3

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING
Name of official submitting the views: CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL / Director of Forestry
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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe)

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its process since 2000 and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:
Needs more legitimacy to enable member countries to take necessary action, + consequences for non compliance

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:
Average performance.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:
To move towards a legally binding instrument on all types of forests

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:
Implementation Role

[4] Please see these documents at:
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: NA very impactful

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: NA very effective

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Not very impactful-

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☑ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Needs to be legally binding on member countries

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☑	☐
GOF2:	☐	☑	☐
GOF3:	☐	☑	☐
GOF4:	☐	☑	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Same as C.2

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: NA very effective in current format

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Needs to be legally binding on member states

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☑ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Needs to be legally binding / a constitution

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: (Same as D.2)

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

NA very impactful

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Need more human + financial resources

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Need creation of mandatory Global forest fund

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Mandatory national forest financing fund.

Ministry of Environment & Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

No. MoEF/(Ban Section-1)17/2012(Part-1)/490 Date: 12.12.2013

Sub : Soliciting views and Proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the International Agreement on Forests (IAF).

Ref : Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Memo No-PMBNY/EW/Misc-21/2010 Dated : 29/07/2013.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your Memo No- PMBNY/EW/Misc-21/2010 Dated : 29 July 2013 on the Soliciting views and Proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the International Agreement on Forests (IAF), the undersigned is directed to inform you that the format has filled up properly. The filled up format is sent to you for your kind information and further necessary action.

Encl: As stated (03 Pages)

12/12/2013
(Syed Mehdi Hasan)
Deputy Secretary
Phone: +88-02-9574418
Email: forest1@moef.gov.bd

Economic Minister
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations
820 2nd Avenue 4th Floor, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.

CC:

1. Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department, Agargaon, Dhaka.
2. Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, UNFF
3. Ms. Thida Sam,UNFF
4. Private Secretary to Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Dhaka.

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Forest Department/Ministry of Environment and Forests

Name of official submitting the views: Md. Yunus Ali

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Phone/Fax: + 880 2 8181737, +880 2 8181741

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The UNFF and its predecessors, IPF and IFF, have had litte impact on forests on ground. UNFF 11 Bureau announced for the independent assessment on the past performance of the UNFF.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

Inter-sessional meetings and initiatives have been found much more productive. The collaborative Partnership on Forests is considered as on of the UN system's best model of cooperation and coordination. The Forum agreed on four shared Global Objectives on Forests, providing clear guidance on the future work of the IAF. Non-legally Binding Instrument of all types of Forests is considered as a milestone.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:
To take measures that the Forests are key factors in green economy.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:
To take measures to improve SFM and recognized the necessity to set-up a Global Fund to provide the required financial resources for implementation, and also a global legally binding instrument for payment of ecosystem services.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:
Country-led initiatives and adhoc expart groups have pottentials to explore, elaborate and develop a broader understanding of the possible concepts and elements to be included in the new Multi-yeat programme of work of the UNFF.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:
Major Groups can play a vital role for the Future We Want: to establish an inclusive and transperant intergovernmental process on SDGs that is open to all stakeholders.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:
Forest and Forestry related institutions and organizations around the world celebrated the "International Year of Forests: Forests for People" , highlighting that people on earth have their phycical, economic and spiritual health tied to the health of Forests, through events, publications and toolkits. Celebration of events recognizes the political and public commitments for Forests.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Adrquate policy and Fund is required.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐

GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
Adequate policy and Fund is required.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:
There is significant gap between the original intent of the IAF and its effects on the ground. Clossing the gap is the responsibility of all concerned and affected actors, at all levels.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:
Means of implementation is required to achieve the GOFs to contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and SDGs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:
CPF has a role to increase collaboration among members and its contributions towards joint statements and policy papers to inform the UN convensions.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

CPF can increase, by bringing together important forest related instutions to share information , coordinate response and work collaborately for the benefit of Global efforts to safeguard the world's forests for the benefit of humanity.

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

It is important create options and strategies for Global Forest Fund for sustainable management of all types of Forests."

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

There exists complex array of exixting forest financing mechanisms, including funds provided by multinational development banks.It is important to assist countries in understanding and accessing sources of forest financing.

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30.10.2013г. № 03-1-13/1212
На № _____ ад _____

The United Nations Forum on Forest
Secretariat Department of economic and social affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2300,
New York, NY 10017, USA

October 28, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

Further to your letter of 16th of July 2013 about views and proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the international arrangement on forests the Ministry of Forestry of Republic of Belarus is pleased to enclose our view on the international arrangement on forests.
Thank you for your enquiring.

Yours faithfully,

Mikhail M. Amelyanovich
Minister of the Forestry of the Republic of Belarus

Dzmitry Krasouski
Deputy Head of Forestry Department of the
Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus
Tel.: +375296903505

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Forestry Republic Belarus

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The current structure of the Forum on Forests is optimal and sufficient for the policy and guidance in relation to all types of forests

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: UN Forum on Forests consistently implements the functions set out in the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council of the UN ECOSOC 2000/35

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UN Forum on Forests can serve as a basis for developing a global legaly binding aggrement on all types of forests

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Forum on Forests is the scene, which allows to consider the importance of forests, national initiatives for the global forest

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The work of the expert groups, as well as the initiatives put forward by the countries are important for the work of the forum, their impact can be assessed as moderate.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: Work groups should be organized in a cost effective manner, ensuring the implementation of the goals

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Global Events "International Year of Forests" and "International Day of the Forest" have considerable political and public response, can significantly increase the public awareness of the need to conserve forests. On the 10th session of the Forum on Forests, the Republic of Belarus has initiated the "International Week of the Forest." This event would contribute to the greater involvement of the public to meet the challenges of conservation, increase their contribution to the achievement of "Millennium Development Goals"

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policies, programs, search for financial resources to implement the goals

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Consistent implementation of the

measures set out in the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council of the UN ECOSOC 2006/49, and to achieve the global goals
C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: positive impact
C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: there are no offers

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat
D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates: ☒ Adequate ☐ Inadequate ☐ Not sure Additional explanation: no
D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Secretariat ensures the effective implementation of its functions
D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Forum Secretariat has sufficient authority to carry out its work

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: CPF holds a sufficient number of programs, the impact of which can be assessed as moderate.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Should be continued interaction between the major parties to develop regulations, proposals that will form the basis of the draft global regulation on Forests

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: It is supported the proposed idea of a voluntary Forest Fund. Funding can be carried out in the framework of the existing mechanisms for the mobilization of financial resources
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: At this stage, funding should be carried out within the framework of existing mechanisms for mobilizing financial resources

Natural Resources Canada | Ressources naturelles Canada

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
One UN Plaza DC1-Room 1256
New York, NY 10017

Please find attached Canada's views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests based on the format provided by the UNFF Secretariat.

I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this important topic, and wish you all the best for the holiday season and the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Thomson

Per

Peter Besseau
Director, International Affairs Division
Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service

Canada

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Natural Resources Canada Canadian Forest Service, Canada

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☒ Other options (please describe) Canada's position on its preferred option will be informed in part by the intersessional work and determined prior to the 2015 UNFF. -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The UNFF structure and its biennial sessions appear to be appropriate at the current time, especially in light of ongoing intersessional work and meetings e.g., AHEGs which allow the momentum and discussion to be maintained.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: Although it is likely that the UNFF has helped generate political support in some countries, it is difficult to assess the overall impact of the UNFF in delivering results on the ground. It appears that it has not entirely achieved principal function c) listed in ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35 which is "To provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation,

coordination and development" given the weak links to actions under the CPF, particularly the FAO, which ideally would broadly support the policy agenda. However, the UNFF has managed to keep forests on the global political agenda, and the Secretariat's location at the UN HQ in New York, offers the potential to build significant linkages to the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda which could be highly beneficial.
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Consideration needs to be given to the role that the UNFF can most usefully play, within the context of the UN system, in achieving results, and how its effectiveness can be magnified, drawing on other UN sucesses and specific forest needs. The UNFF benefits greatly from the strategic support provided by CPF members as the key technical bodies. Recognizing that the CPF is a voluntary arrangement, ideally its work would, in large part, support implementation of the global policy decisions taken by the UNFF. There is somewhat of a disconnect, and this appears to diminish the impact of decisions taken by the UNFF, recognizing that there is a need to also accommodate the unique mandates of other organizations (e.g., FAO's Strategic Objectives and cross-sectoral focus). It would be useful if the UNFF could be more creative in its approach to addressing forest issues (e.g., lack of enforcement, transparency, pressures from other sectors), for instance by engaging key experts in the main areas of concern and seeking to identify what is required to address problems and drive the agenda, whether in a step-wise or integrated manner, in and outside the UN. The UNFF could then determine what role it could usefully play.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The UNFF should ensure that links are made on an ongoing basis with the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs, especially during discussion of the path forward on the international arrangement on forests in 2015. It is important that the UNFF Secretariat inform the development community about the role that forests can play in supporting their objectives, noting the political focus and financing opportunities associated with the development agenda.
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Ad hoc expert groups have proven useful in advancing awareness and discussion between formal UNFF sessions, and allowed for more open discussion than formal UNFF sessions. Canada has limited experience with CLIs in recent years.
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: There is room to better engage major groups, including ensuring that they are engaged early in the process to allow for sufficient time to develop a position among members. Consideration could be given to adding a very short section summarizing the views of major groups in UNFF meeting documents so that there views are more prominent.
B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: It is hard to say how much impact they have had; however, they do promote a basis on which to promote awareness of forest issues e.g., a stamp was issued in Canada for the International Year of Forests. Their impact on strengthening political commitment is likely less than on

greater public awareness of forests in general.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Clearly there are weaknesses with implementation of the forest instrument given ongoing issues with regard to the world's forests.

As only 57 countries submitted voluntary reports for UNFF 10 it is difficult to get a complete picture with regard to implemention; further efforts to improve and facilitate reporting would be beneficial.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Increased attention and commitment is needed by countries to delivering on the global objectives. Improved reporting and increased support for the preparation of country reports would aid in information-sharing and monitoring progress. Perhaps there could be workshops on this e.g., to discuss case studies of successful and not-so-successful implementation. Improving implementation needs to take into consideration the limitations of the NLBI and GOFs relative to legal agreements.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: The forest instrument supports other international conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNFCCC. There is no specific causal relationship or evidence.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: It is important to draw a direct link between the work of the UNFF and the future SDGs and post-2015 development agenda given

the importance of the products and ecosystem services provided by forests e.g., goods such as timber, food, fuel and bioproducts, and ecological functions such as carbon storage, climate change adaptation, nutrient cycling, water and air purification, regulation of water flows, erosion control, and biodiversity conservation.

It is likely that the SDGs will include a heightened focus on integrated landscape approaches and it will be important to promote the role of forests, and forest-related efforts, in this context. Forests can also make a valuable contribution to the green economy.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation: It would be useful to have more detail about the tasks and achievements of the Secretariat and the role of each member, noting that the UNFF Secretariat is not as compact as some others.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: More attention needs to be devoted to the website which is currently weak, disorganized, and often confusing (e.g., different material for the same meeting can be posted in 2 locations). When one tries to go back it often takes one out of the system, and the web address could be simpler (if appropriate). Significant attention should be given as a priority to producing a streamlined and effective website. Documents for meetings and AHEGs should be as crisp and punchy as possible as longer wordy documents are unlikely to be read. Secretariat staff need to be responsive to email communications from countries - some staff members are very responsive and others much less which no doubt increases the work load for the more responsive individuals.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The work of the AHEG and the analysis leading to the next UNFF should explore the role of the UNFF Secretariat, remove ambiguities in its mandate, sharpen the mandate where needed, and otherwise charge the Secretariat in more clear, deliberate terms.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.: Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: This is not clear. It would be useful if CPF member organizations were willing to report out on what they have done or will do specifically to support implementation of the forest instrument and the results achieved. There needs to be a clearer link between the policy drivers, the actions aimed at facilitating implementation, and the results achieved. There seems to be somewhat of a disconnect between the actions and outcomes of the policy body (the UNFF) and the implementation bodies related to forests (CPF member organizations) - ideally they should be harmominzed to a large extent. Perhaps there would be a role for results-based work plans and performance measurement frameworks around this, if appropriate and acceptable.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Close links need to be maintained and strengthened between the global forest policy discussions under UNFF and the work of the CPF organizations.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: In work on financing options, there needs to be a focus on maximizing the use of existing funds, and determining the contribution of REDD+ funding.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: CPF members could help support the development of national forest financing strategies, including ways of raising domestic funds, and/or determine if some kind of brokering system could be useful, at the national, regional and/or global levels, to help countries access existing and emerging financing opportunities.

中华人民共和国常驻联合国代表团

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

350 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016 *TEL.: (212) 655-6100*

(2014) CME No.001

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and has the honor to submit to the latter China's views and proposals on the International Arrangement of Forests(IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

January 13, 2014

New York

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: State Forestry Administration of P. R. China

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe)

Explanation: Forests are a main body of the terrestrial ecosystem, with important economic, social and environmental functions. The practice of the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (the Forest Instrument) proves that it is limited for a voluntary instrument to contribute to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and to promote the sustainable forest management (the SFM), so that the effective global governance on forests can hardly be achieved. Concluding a legally-binding instrument or convention on forests will: 1) realize the high-level political commitment at national, regional and global levels, and transform the time-consuming discussion and negotiation into pragmatic actions; 2) help maintain the integrity of the forest ecosystem from the perspective of international laws, and address the segmentation of forests' multi-functions; 3) help build a global governance system on forests, and promote the global SFM and ; 4) help strengthen the international cooperation on forests.

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The UNFF is the only independent platform to discuss forest-related issues in the UN. Considering the importance and complexity of the issues, the UNFF should be strengthened urgently. In order to build an effective global governance system on forests, a legal system in particular, to achieve coordination in and unity of multi-functions of forests, and to promote the SFM, the UNFF, based on its current work, needs to increase the frequency of its sessions

(convening one session every two years, and thematic or regional conferences every year), enhance communication and exchange among its member states, build consensus, bridge differences, and make efforts to build an effective global governance system on forests.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[a]:

Since its inception in 2000, and as an independent negotiation platform on forest-related issues, the UNFF has been playing a positve role in coordinating global policies on forests, raising international status of forests, and promoting international cooperation. 1) The UNFF's structure, sessions and side events serve as a good platform for discussion. 2) The UNFF's expert groups and Country-Led Initiatives focus closely on hot-spot issues and key areas of the world forestry development, and provide guidance and reference for countries to take actions and to engage in international cooperation. 3) They also provide basis for countries to raise the importance of forestry. 4) The UNFF's resolutions also serve as foundations for countries to make forestry-related policies.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

As the only independent international platform to discuss forest-related issues, the UNFF has an important role to play in coordinating global policies on forests, improving forestry financing mechanisms, strengthening international cooperation, and promoting the global SFM. We suggest that until a legally-binding instrument on forests is agreed on, the UNFF's status should be raised within the UN, the financial support for the Forum be strengthed, and its human resources enriched, so that as an UN agency, the UNFF can give full play to its advantages and potential.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

Forests are a major body of the terrestrial ecosystem, with important economic, social and environmental functions. Forests are also a significant section of the green economy, and play an important role in the global sustainable development and poverty reduction. Therefore, forests will be an indispensable part in the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. As the only independent platform to negotiate forest-related issues, the UNFF is an executing body to coordinate global, regional and countries' actions, and to achieve the SDGs. It can also play a positive role in coordination. For examply, the UNFF can engage countries in discussing the implementation plan for forest-related goals in the SDGs, assess the implementation, and report progress to the UN.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups (AHEG) are a beneficial supplement to the UNFF sessions. During the sessions, they lay a foundation for countries to discuss important issues, bridge differences, expand consensus, and provide a large amount of background information for countries in discussion.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

It is important to encourage interest groups to engage in discussions and express their rights and interests. In the related work of the UNFF, interest groups participate effectively in discussions and express fully their concerns and opinions. The interest groups' participation should be further encouraged and supported in the future.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

The International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests play a positive role in promoting the functions and potential of forests, and also raise the awareness of forests in society. In 2011, in order to celebrate the International Year of Forests, China co-sponsored the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. In 2013, China held 1st tree-planting activities in celebration of the International Day of Forests. Through organising and carrying out these activitis, all levels of governments pay greater attention to forestry, and the public's passion and awareness in participating in the SFM are also increased.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

At the international level, 1) countries should strengthen their political commitment in implementing the Forest Instrument; 2) the establishment of the global financing mechanism on forests should be supported; 3) the UNFF and the FAO need to coordiante and support countries to set up pilot sites for the implementation of the Forest Instrument and; 4)member organisations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) need to provide technological support.

At the national level, 1) the goals and main content of the Forest Instrument should be publicized, and the public's understanding of and participation in forest-related issues be further enhanced; 2) activities for the implementation of the Forest Instrument should be carried out through experiment and demonstration and ;3) all levels of governments should be urged to provide funds and talents to implement the Forest Instrument.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐

GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

1) Political commitment at all levels should be strengthened; 2) a legally-binding instrument or convention on forests should be reached; 3) an independent and specialized financing mechanism should be set up and; 4) capacity-building of developing countries should be increased.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

Forests have multiple functions. The implementation of the Forest Instrument and carrying out the SFM can play a positive role in dealing with climate change, conserving biodiversity and fighting against desertification, and vice versa. Since the goals and perspectives of the conventions differ, there are limits in examining forestry from their own perspectives. The lack of overall coordination leads to the segmentation of forests' multi-functions. Therefore, a comprehensive coordination platform and mechanism led by the UNFF needs to be built so as to achieve a win-win situation.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The GOFs are a consensus on forests reached by countries. In the SDGs, the GOFs can be specific indicators to assess the sustainable development of forests. The Forest Instrument should be a means of implementaion for the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs on forests. However, as the Forest Instrument is not legally-binding, it can hardly perform its due obligations. A legally-binding instrument or convention on forests should be reached to replace the current Forest Instrument, and serve as a means of implementation to carry out the SDGs on forests.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

As a subsidiary body under the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UNFF makes a tremendous effort in coordinating with other UN bodies and member states. Under limited human and financial conditions, the UNFF's Secretariat excellently accomplishs its work required by its obligations. It is highly appreciated by China.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

Considering the important role of forests in the global sustainable development and in dealing with significant missions including the IAF, we suggest the UNFF's Secretariat be upgraded, and its human and financial resources strengthened and ensured.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

The UNFF's Secretariat should coordinate and improve the CPF's work mechanism, and harness synergies, so that the CPF mechanism can play a positive role in the development of the UNFF and the IAF, and that the CPF can report its progress to member states of the UN.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

Since its inception, the CPF convened the CPF Organisation-Led Initiative on Forests Financing, and published its reports. It plays its role in addressing the global forest-related issues. However, the CPF's support to the related work of the UNFF and to the implementation of the Forest Instrument is insufficient, and the inter-institutional forest fund is not used in an effective or coordinated way.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Based on the objectives and functions in the resolution that establishes the CPF, its member organisations should strengthen their support to the Forum. 1) An effective work mechanism of the CPF should be built for communication and coordination. 2) Member states should assess the CPF, and give their opinions for its improvement. 3) The CPF member organisations should enhance their support to the facilitative process on finance.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

There is a gap in the global forestry fund; and developing countries are unable to provide sufficient fund for their SFM. The utilization distribution of the current international fund is uneven in regions and fields; and there is no fund specialized in the SFM. We suggest that 1) the Global Environment Facility (GEF) make the SFM an independent focal area in its sixth replenishment; 2) a global fund on forests be established and; 3) the utilization synergies of

the current fund be promoted.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: 1) The GEF should consider the resolution of the second AHEG of the UNFF 10, and take forestry as an independent focal area. 2), The CPF members should strengthen their support to the facilitative process, share financing information, and allow financing declaration through the process. They should also implement the related resolutions of the UNFF, and simplify the financing declaration procedures, in order for the facilitative process to perform its duties given by the member states.

China 7

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations

211 E. 43rd Street, Room 903, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 986-6373 Fax: (212) 9866842

MCRONU-599-2013

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests, and has the honour to submit the document regarding the views and proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

The Government of Costa Rica would like to thank the Secretariat for its support in this process.

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 10th December, 2013

MISION PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

To the
United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: National System of Conservation Areas, MINAE

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- Other options (please describe)

☐ Among the purposes of the IAF, this opportunity to strengthen the sustainable management of forests worldwide and meet the legally binding instrument on all types of forests. In addition, to promote the protection and sustainable management of forests, the contemplation of the many services that ecosystems provide all comprehensive. Also, strengthen action to address threats to which they are exposed by anthropogenic and natural activities, including climate change. -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The current structure is considered appropriate UNFF and its biannual meetings, but the facilitation, advice and encouragement for the development of regional activities is recommended, taking advantage of the spaces, the FAO regional commissions, and the like in order to provide information, create synergies and facilitate knowledge, socialization and

strengthening non-legally binding instrument. They must also achieve synergies with related parties and other agreements signed by the countries

We recommend the intersessional meetings at regional and international levels, in order to follow up on the agreements of the UNFF and negotiation issues for the next session..

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: UNFF functions are linked to:

- Increasing the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development targets;
- Encourage and assist countries to develop and implement strategies to conserve and restore forests
- Strengthen interaction between the Forum and regional organizations / sub-regional level, in order to facilitate cooperation and the implementation of sustainable forest management and to contribute to the work of the Forum.

As key themes can be noted the following

- Development and implementation of national forest programs and equivalent strategies;
- Promote cooperation and coordination between sectoral policies and programs
- International trade in forest products
- Participation of stakeholders in civil society
- Consolidated scientific basis for forest policy
- Public awareness and education on forest
- Means of implementation, including financing
- The coordination of priorities and programs with members of the Collaborative
- Principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting-progress Instrument

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

- UNFF should lead a process of communication of their work and the results of the forum, the non-legally binding instrument, the GOFs and the importance of sustainable forest management of all types of forests.
- The permanent communication mechanisms with the focal points of the countries. Political and technical information is provided by the CAP. Including interregional and intersectoral synergies.
- Facilitate assistance to countries on the knowledge of the UNFF, the general objectives of the woods and the Non-Legally Binding Instrument, and promoting their inclusion in regional and national processes.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

- Active participation in processes developing Sustainable Development Goals and the Development Agenda Post-2015, to ensure the relevance of different types of forests and sustainable management, taking into account environmental, social and economic aspects, the poverty reduction, climate change, and many other subjects
- Keep informed the parties of the developed processes and determine the best way to take into account the positions and contributions.
- Conducting the assessment of overall forest objectives and their contribution to SDGs is recommended.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

- Incorporation into national forest policies and programs
- Generating processes of communication and disclosure sectoral and intersectoral, multilevel, etc..
- Synergies with UN conventions you link (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, etc.)
- Sustainable forest management

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

- Participation and the role of different actors that are related to forest ecosystems is very wide, have a variety of interests and needs related to forests and sustainable management thereof.
- Should characterize and measure the effective participation of different organizations and their contribution to the scope of the UNFF.
- Synergies and harmonization of roles and interests. Identifying opportunities for participation in international, regional and national level is suitable.
- Determine communication and coordination mechanisms established at regional and national level, with relevant actors and sectors.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

It is very important to use these celebrations in order to provide information through different media and create awareness of the importance of all types of forest ecosystems for sustainable development.

- Social, economic and environmental benefits that forests provide to humanity at all levels
- Generation of goods and ecosystem services
- Relevance to different natural hazards.
- Importance in terms of food security, livelihood and production of vital resources for humans (wood, water).
- Importance in mitigating and adapting to the impacts and effects of climate change. But these important ecosystems are being threatened and are more vulnerable to climate change.

- Promote the reduction of deforestation and degradation, forest fires, pests and diseases, and contributing the reduction of poverty and improvement of sustainable livelihoods.

Plan and coordinate activities with various stakeholders as part of these celebrations, in order to communicate effectively to multilevel and multi-sectoral.

Create synergies with other similar activities at international and national level.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

- It is necessary to promote the dissemination and knowledge to the countries within the scope of NLBI. Facilitating linkage to regional processes and national forest programs and any regional process

- Because the organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which are operating in most countries of the world, it is important to create synergies and actions to provide information and collaboration in knowledge and implementation NLBI.

As examples:

- COFLAC
- Technical Group of Forestry Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Regional Strategic Program for Management of Forest Ecosystems (PERFOR)

- Generate pilot in interested countries, fostering experiences and lessons learned in their implementation and their relationship with forest planning tools. This will allow countries or parties, to appropriate and internalize their importance and strengthen implementation.

- Formulating guidelines and technical series, in different languages to guide the incorporation into national forest programs, as well as other technical and political issues.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☒	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

It is recommended to establish criteria and indicators specifically aimed at these objectives, allowing more easily associate programs and regional and national policies. Generate support to member countries, with the support of organizations for cooperation and assistance, creating synergies with other relevant bodies

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

- With the incorporation of the Convention in the CAP, you can create synergies between conventions, and agreements approved in different areas of the conferences of the parties and UNFF sessions.
- Considering the important role of forests and sustainable forest management in Sustainable Development
- The growing concern about the vulnerability, loss and degradation of forest ecosystems, human and natural causes

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

- Consider political consensus on the vision for an agenda of the United Nations development after 2015 and the commitment of all stakeholders in discussions on the development after 2015. Which must be present to incorporate issues related to UNFF, instruments and structures.
- Note that the development of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), it is useful to develop a focused and coherent action on sustainable development tool.
- Promoting the participation of the member countries of the UNFF in participating in national consultations to gain the commitment of stakeholders.
- The UNFF should actively participate in the process of thematic consultations, organized jointly by various agencies of the UN family with the support of civil society and other international organizations.
- Establish links with eleven thematic consultations on: Conflict and fragility, Education,

Environmental Sustainability, Governance, Growth and Employment, Health, Hunger, nutrition and food security, inequalities, population dynamics, energy and water. There is a direct and indirect relationship with the UNFF, the non-legal

- Track and active participation in the processes followed to prepare the agenda and the development of ODS from 2015.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

Provide required human and financial resources to strengthen the Secretariat of the UNFF, allowing the implementation of its functions efficiently and effectively. Also, to facilitate knowledge and implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

- Negotiations with the United Nations, states and organizations, and others deemed relevant, to improve funding for the UNFF
- Should design and implement communication mechanisms to publicize the extent of the UNFF and its instruments, as well as contribute to a better understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management. Undoubtedly these measures will help to improve the information and performance of its members and their national focal points.
- Designing publications in different languages on the UNFF, their structures, the Non-Legally Binding Instrument and GOPS, which facilitates communication actions that take place at different levels.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

- Develop technical guidelines to facilitate understanding and issues related to UNFF and sustainable forest management
- Create networks with organizations and member states.
- Define and implement mechanisms for collaboration with members
- Facilitate coordination with organizations that build and national processes of member countries.

Costa Rica

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: • The work of the CPF is fundamental with respect to their duties entrusted by the ECOSOC, referring to support UNFF and its member countries as well as promoting the coordination and cooperation of forest • We think that you should evaluate and improve coordination mechanisms and target both member countries and organizations that shape communication. Take this instance created to promote synergies among the agencies that make up that are represented or have some relationship with the different regions of the world where they operate. • Create communication mechanisms that allow to provide information to members of the UNFF. Since it is important to keep in mind the mission of the CPF, as to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen the commitment of long-term policies to accomplish that purpose. So it is suitable and necessary, improve the relationship with the CPF members
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: • First, improved reporting mechanisms, since many members have little information about this partnership • Improve the agendas and interests of cooperation between organizations that comprise, actions and resources around the responsibilities of the UNFF and its member countries are facing. • Build communication mechanisms with the focal points of the countries, in order to have information on the actions that are linked to the UNFF, the non-legally binding instrument, and activities that develop with their mandates. • The same agencies that constitute the CPF should become spokespersons about its existence and its mission and objectives in order to achieve full link to the UNFF and its member countries. • What kind of agendas are developed?, which are the channels of communication to members that synergies mechanisms apply?, as the responsibilities of the UNFF and its member countries with the mission of CPF is associated?

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: • Costa Rica's position on this issue is that you must establish a "Global Forest Fund". • It should use all sources, including new and additional resources for developing

countries.

- Promote the effective implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument for all types of forest
- Define and strengthen the implementation of the four global objectives on forests.
- Promote sustainable management of forests
- Funding for the implementation of sustainable forest management is very important for developing countries, and the economic contribution of the forest sector is still of great importance to the sustainable development agenda.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

- The thematic areas of sustainable forest management at different levels, needs, complexities, strengths, weaknesses, progress, etc..
- Emphasize the need to improve coordination between the different instruments and mechanisms as a priority.
- Conduct an assessment to consider different actions at all levels, of all actors and stakeholders and all sources, public and private, national and international, bilateral and multilateral.
- Addressing gaps thematic, geographic and data on forest financing, and increase funding for implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (NLBI)
- Promotion and incorporation of the responsibilities of the UNFF, the member countries, the non-legally binding instrument and overall objectives, policies and programs. Well as on issues of concern to ensure its effectiveness, in terms of forest governance and participation of different actors.
- Strengthen cooperation in the areas of finance related to forests, trade, technology transfer and capacity building, and improving the coverage and effectiveness of finance for sustainable forest management.
- Improve and simplify access current and potential financing for sustainable forest management and forest policies and national

Costa Rica

MINISTERE D'ETAT,
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

LE CABINET

REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Union-Discipline-Travail

N°3090/MEMAE/CAB/DGCM-ONU-IS/KKF/BTN

Abidjan, 05 DEC 2013

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, pour transmission au Secrétariat du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts (FNUF), les observations et propositions de la Côte d'Ivoire sur la revue de l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts (AIF), en réponse au questionnaire que lui a soumis le FNUF.

Par ailleurs, je vous prie de bien vouloir formuler une requête auprès du Secrétariat du FNUF pour la prise en charge de la participation de Monsieur KADIO Adjumane Aimé, Conseiller Technique du Ministre des Eaux et Forêts, Point Focal National du FNUF, au prochain atelier du Comité d'Experts intergouvernementaux, prévu du 24 au 28 février 2014 à Nairobi (Kenya).

Je vous en souhaite bonne réception et vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Le Directeur de Cabinet

KADIO Emmanuel

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,
REPRESENTANT PERMANENT
DE COTE D'IVOIRE
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

NEW-YORK

MISSION PERMANENTE
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N° 006 /MNU/1/KFN/ab

La Mission Permanente de la République de Côte d'Ivoire auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies présente ses compliments au Bureau des Nations Unies pour les Forêts (FNUF) et a l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-joint, les observations et propositions du Gouvernement ivoirien sur la revue de l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts (AIF), en réponse au questionnaire qui lui a été soumis.

Par ailleurs, la Mission Permanente voudrait informer le Bureau du FNUF de la requête de la Côte d'Ivoire pour la prise en charge de la participation de Monsieur KADIO Adjumane Aimé, Conseiller technique du Ministre des Eaux et Forêts, point focal national du FNUF, au prochain atelier du Comité d'experts intergouvernementaux, prévu du 24 au 28 février 2014 à Nairobi (Kenya).

La Mission Permanente de la République de Côte d'Ivoire auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Bureau des Nations Unies pour les Forêts (FNUF), les assurances de sa haute considération.

New York, le 2 janvier2014

Bureau des Nations Unies pour les Forêts
(FNUF)
New York

Fax : 917-367-3186

Cote d'Ivoire 2

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: MINISTERE DES EAUX ET FORETS (MINEF)

Name of official submitting the views: KADIO ADJUMANE AIME – Point Focal National FNUF Conseiller Technique

Address: Cité Administrative Tour D 19ème Etage 20 BP 650 ABIDIAN 20

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E-mail: Kadio.aime@Gmail.com ou adjumane.kadio@eaouv.ci

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF :

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options pleasedescribe

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The UNFF Secretariat which performs valuable work seems very small staff to carry out all the tasks that Members of the Forum expect him to support States in the implementation of the Agreement.
But it would be desirable therefore to expand the current team by recruiting new experts and organize the monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement by homogeneous groups. Experts recruited will be used to support States and monitoring the implementation of the Agreement in these groups: LFCCs – SIDs – HFCCs- LDCs ...
The biennial UNFF sessions are sufficient to assess progress between sessions. But intersessional activities should be maintained to help preparation of next session.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

UNFF has made significant progress and produced an impressive number of studies and reports or summaries with the support of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or by independent consultants or by voluntary contributions from States or individuals on key issues in the forestry sector.
Most CPF member organizations work together to promote sustainable forest management at the regional and national levels, forest governance and law enforcement as well as the promotion of legal timber trade.
More recently, the study on forest financing led by the CPF Members and the support provided to developing States by the UNFF Facilitative Process, to help them identify ways of financing sustainable forest management were major achievements.
Most countries have undertaken efforts to implement at least some of the policy measures adopted by the Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) on all types of forests, mainly in the framework of their national forest

programs. However, ignorance of the IAF did not allow them to develop an evaluation in relation to the implementation of the Instrument on all types of forests.
Sensitization of stakeholders on the usefulness of this instrument is, therefore, fundamental to achieve its implementation and contribute to sustainable management of forest resources of States.
Modules on capacity building designed and delivered in some countries like Ghana, Liberia ... to facilitate the implementation of the Instrument and monitoring at the national level, should extend to a maximum of countries. This training may have contributed as well to improve the understanding of the instrument by stakeholders and show them how to integrate its implementation and monitoring in national forest programs in particular, and in the national development plans in general.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

UNFF should go well beyond a framework for discussion and debate to turn the Secretariat into a coordinating body for implementation of forest policy at the global level. While recognizing each country's responsibility to sustainably manage its forests and enforce national laws, UNFF should adopt the following objectives :
- Strengthen the commitment of Member States and all stakeholders to identify and implement relevant strategies at national level to contribute to the achievement of global objectives shares;
- To assist States to develop and implement a national forest programs or equivalent ;
- To support the states and other stakeholders in the effective cross-sectoral planning and coordination on issues that affect forests;
UNFF already has significant capacities, mandate and a hearing should be utilized, with the support of the CPF Members, to play a central role in the governance of the global forest.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

UNFF should be the high level interlocutor on forest issues and put all its weight to raise the profile of forests in intergovernmental discussions on the Post-2015 United Nations development agenda and within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
The UNFF Secretariat should be mandated member states to defend positions, define and propose objectives and targets that could be an international agreement. The central position of the UNFF allows him to have a better overview on all matters under discussion worldwide.
In view of hoisting the forestry sector as the main target of a goal on the natural resources on the SDGs, the UNFF Secretariat should gather around him all stakeholders (Member States, CPF, large groups ...) to present clearly the arguments in favor of forests.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

Most states have taken initiatives for the implementation of the NLBI on all types of forests. These initiatives are marked in Africa and particularly in Côte d'Ivoire by the revision of forest legislation in order to take into account the measures of sustainable forest management. Côte d'Ivoire is also involved in the FLEGT process which marks the willingness of policymakers to promote forest law enforcement, governance and legal operations, wood processing and fair trade of forests products.
At West Africa level, the process of dialogue on forests initiated by the sub-regional institutions in the forest sector and fauna, with the support of institutions and organizations to international intergovernmental or non- governmental, led to the adoption by Member States of ECOWAS (Economic Community of west Africa), in a " Convergence Plan for the management and sustainable use of forest ecosystems in West Africa." This plan reflects the desire of these states to implement more efficient forest resources and strengthening sub-regional cooperation on sustainable forest management and wildlife management mechanisms. This plan, will

therefore serve as a frame of reference on the basis of which Member States agree to " federate " their national and sub -regional organizations, in order to achieve the sustainable management of forests and wildlife and ecosystem valuation forest in the sub -region.
Concerning Africa, the creation of the African Forest Forum (AFF) has had an undeniable impact on the promotion of sustainable forest management through the implementation of projects and editing many documents. AFF helped promote forest law enforcement, governance and trade. AFF has also provided support to African States through the organization of workshops, to better inform national focal points on the mechanisms and the overall objectives of the Agreement.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

The participation of Major Groups in multi-stakeholder debate contributed to associate all stakeholders to decisions for sustainable forest management. Written contributions that these groups produce are valuable input in the multi-stakeholder debate
The contribution of major groups should be encouraged because they are independent bodies who express themselves freely on issues of global interest. They should receive more attention and a little more space at Forum sessions to express their views.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

The International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests have resulted in a higher awareness and increase political and public commitment to sustainable forest management.
In Côte d'Ivoire, the Government made a statement read by the Minister in Charge of Forests on National Radio and Television antennas, to describe the initiatives taken by his department for the sustainable management and restoration of forests and invited everyone to get involved in the implementation of these actions. During demonstrations marking the International Day of Forests, government, people, and operators in the timber sector were mobilized around forestry issues.
Following these meetings, several important decisions were adopted, including the expulsion of people illegally installed in managed forests and the adoption of legislation to stop logging in savanna zones, considered as delicate ecosystem.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

To improve progress, extension of the Instrument on Forests should be undertaken in states that wish to all stakeholders: government, economic operators' wood and forestry sector and non-governmental organizations forest products sector. It must take into account the awareness of the usefulness of this instrument for achieving its implementation and contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources.

The training modules like those performed in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines in recent years have made to ensure the capacity building and understanding of the Agreement.

States should avoid frequent changes in focal points to prevent sudden breaks in monitoring records. They should rather develop light teams of two or three persons to monitor the process.

An effort should be made at the state level to translate the instrument on forests in the main languages and implement incentives to engage in forest management certification schemes for sustainable management measures.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Note sure
GOF1	☐	☐	☒
GOF2	☐	☒	☐
GOF3	☐	☒	☐
GOF4	☐	☐	☒

Despite the implementation of the Instrument on Forests and progress in sustainable forest management, the forest loss, associated with massive clearings, have increased in developing countries and in Ivory Coast in particular. These losses are not fully compensated by the global gains in forest area in developed countries.

In Côte d'Ivoire, reforestation and forest restoration is a priority of the national forest program. Maintaining the integrity of areas fully preserved (national parks) is ensured and the creation of an independent department (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves - OIPR) to fulfill this mission contributes to a better protection of these ecosystems.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire is engaged in process FLEGT and REDD+. This marks the country's willingness to enroll in certification programs of best practice, sustainable forest management, improving access to foreign markets. These programs also have a higher aspect of capacity building and technology transfer. The information is sufficiently developed with stakeholders involved in the process, to bring the same level of understanding than others.

Involvement in the REED+ process in particular, help to establish a framework for cooperation between different sectors (forestry - agriculture - energy - mining - transport ...). It will enhance the coordination of efforts for a better understanding of the causes of forest degradation and facilitate the understanding of misunderstandings that limit political approaches to implement in order to solve these problems.

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

To achieve the overall objectives at the global and national level, we will have set the problem of the status of the instrument and the establishment of a mechanism for financing forest.

At national level, the extension of the instrument on Forests should be undertaken in order to achieve an understanding by all stakeholders in forest management.

Knowledge for sustainable forest management is available but the causes of forest problems are complex and their resolution requires application of a variety of policy instruments. The establishment of a framework for cooperation in the sectors involved in the implementation of these policies is a prerequisite for success.

National priorities should be identified and taken into account:

- Capacity building of forest workers , forest companies' managers, local communities and all forest stakeholders on approaches to rational management of forest resources to reduce pressure on forests;
- Promoting the efficient use of forest products to prevent waste;
- Increasing the contribution of forest management to reduce poverty mainly for people living close to the forest to attract the interest of people for sustainable management.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

The implementation of FLEGT and REED+ process identifies activities that contribute to the achievement of the four global objectives of Forest Instrument. This is the case for capacity building of stakeholders in forest management, promoting intersectoral coordination for sustainable development, strengthening forest law, the establishment of a framework for financing sustainable management sustainable forest management, promoting the development of non-timber forest products, etc ...

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The implementation of the Forests Instrument and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals can provide arguments to raise the profile of the forestry sector in the definition of sustainable development objectives.

Data on direct and indirect contributions of forest products to national economies and poverty reduction could be used to build an argument to show that this contribution also involves different sectors such as agriculture and food security, energy, tourism, water resources...

It would be possible to demonstrate that the investment in the forestry sector is an axis of economic growth in developing countries and thus poverty reduction.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

The UNFF Secretariat has an important role with great competence and professionalism. But its size is too small to enable it to effectively carry all loads can be expected from him. The existing staff Should be confirmed and recruited new expertise for better management of IAF. The Facilitative Process of UNFF Secretariat which played such an important role in recent years to assist Member States to strengthen their capacity in mobilizing funds for sustainable forest management should be continued and expanded in staff. Support and monitoring of the implementation of the instrument responsibilities could be assigned to these experts from the cluster on the basis of specific States: LFCCs, SIDs, HFCCs, LDCs...

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

See D1 and B1

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Idem

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

The establishment of the CPF by ECOSOC to support the activities of the Forum and its members and to enhance cooperation and coordination in forestry amongmembers, is a significant initiative that must be maintain and strengthen.
The CPF has produced key results among which may be mentioned the study on forest financing and promotion of the International Year of Forests in 2011.
CPF should receive the financial support needed to cope with the financing of its activities.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

The Secretariat of the UNFF and the CPF Members should be able to define each year a list of commitments related to work plan, implement and evaluate the necessary implementation of these activities financial needs for seeking finance.
The contribution of member financial organizations like the World Bank CPF should be sought to finance this work plan.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

As part of the preparation for the tenth session of the Forum to be held in Istanbul (Turkey) in April 2013, the Forum adopted at its special session at its ninth session, the Resolution on the means of implementation (forest financing) for sustainable forest management which has been established an Ad hoc Group of Experts Intergovernmental open (AHEG) and a process of facilitation (PF). The results of the meetings held in Rome (Italy) in September 2012 and in Vienna (Austria) in January 2013, on the subject should be taken into account.
The establishment of a global forest fund to finance sustainable forest management is sought by many Member States. This decision has unfortunately not been taken at the tenth session of the Forum in Istanbul and seems subject to the revision of the legal status of the Instrument on Forests.
According to Côte d'Ivoire, the development of national forest sustainable financing strategy, is a primary responsibility of States. However the overall plan funding must be available to provide a framework for collaboration and technology transfer. Strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests will be desirable for this purpose, without necessarily establishing a Legally Binding Agreement on all types of forests.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

The establishment of a global forest fund to support forest management and the impiementation of the Forests Instrument should be a window for financing decisions of the Forum. All other existing funding should be additional windows to the fund.
Access to this fund should be easier for developing countries in order to assist them in the implementation of measures adopted by the Forum on sustainable forest management.
This new and additional funding must come in addition to those already available for sustainable development and access by states based on national priorities and national forest programs development.

MISIÓN PERMANENTE
DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

MPRDNY-2144-13

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and wishes to refer to its letter dated October 25, 2013 with reference UNFF-13_HMM-L-284.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations has the pleasure to enclose it submission of views ad proposals on the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests the assurances of its highest consideration.

December 2, 2013

Secretariat
United Nations Forum on Forests
New York.-

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MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES

"Año del Bicentenario del Natalicio de Juan Pablo Duarte"

Santo Domingo, D.N.
28 NOV 2013

4201

Ing. Carlos Morales Troncoso
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Su Despacho.

Atención: Sra. Venecia Álvarez de Van-der-Horst
Embajadora, Encargada de Asuntos Científicos,
Tecnológicos y Medioambientales.

Distinguido señor Ministro

Cortésmente, y en atención a la comunicación 8448, de fecha 23/10/13 de la Secretaría del Foro de Bosques de las Naciones unidas, en la que invita a los Estados Miembros a someter sus propuesta relativa al Acuerdo Internacional sobre los Bosques. En ese sentido, estamos remitiendo la propuesta del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales para la posición del país en lo que respecta al citado acuerdo.

La reiteramos nuestro sentimiento de alta estima e hacia persona.

Atentamente,

Dr. Bautista Rojas Gómez
Ministro de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Ave. Cayetano Germosén, Esq. Ave. Gregorio Luperón, El Pedregal, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
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Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Dominican Republic/Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Name of official submitting the views: 27/11/2013

Address: Av. Cayetano Germosen, Esq. Av. Luperon

Phone/Fax: 809 567 4300 ext. 6140

E-mail: pedro.garcia@ambiente.gob.do

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: It is necessary to hold biennial sessions for decision making and introduce intersessional preparatory meetings.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49*:

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: It is important to continue strengthening the UNFF creating mechanisms and developing new tools to assist countries to the adoption of policies related to forests.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015, could be:
1. Improving the income of poor communities who derive their livelihoods from forest,
2. Improving the quality and quantity of water, and therefore the access of the population to this natural resource.
3. Increasing the provisinn of products (edible or not) to the population.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: The commitment of the major groups has been important to maintain the operation of the UNFF, both exercising leadership, as in the provision of funds for its operation. It is necessary that these groups continue to exercise their leadership and support initiatives aimed at giving a higher status UNFF initiatives.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Both days have served to promote the importance of forests in social sectors and institutions that do not have a high interest in forests.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: An example of how the forest have been applied instruments, the REDD + initiative in the framework of the UNFCCC, which is becoming one of the instruments for climate change mitigation, through the management of forests.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: It is necessary the creation of permanent mechanisms for managing the decisions of countries as well as the facilitation of the flow of information between stakeholders. Also, the Secretariat of the Forum needs more resources to provide the services demanded.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The roles of the forum can be strengthened by establishing a stronger agreement with major commitments of the parties.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: The impact that has resulted from the application of this instrument is difficult to determine, however, some results are visible and reflected in an increase in forest cover in developing countries.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Dominican Republic 6

በኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ
የአካባቢና የደን ሚኒስቴር
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

ቀን 4/12/2013
Date
ቁጥር 3/1.1/1523
Ref.No.

Mr. Macharia Kamau
Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau
New York, NY 10017

Dear Sir,

We thank you for requesting to complete the Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the international Arrangement on Forests (IAF). From the background of the format we do understand that several sessions of meetings/discussions have been conducted and decisions were made since its establishment. We also do understand that the format need to be completed based on the performances and achievements of the series of decisions made before.

Indeed, our office the Ministry of Environment and Forest is new and on restructuring. Formerly, the forestry sector was just a unit /small unit/ in the Ministry of Agriculture. For reasons of staff turnover and many other cases, we found it difficult to know about what has been going with regard to the subject we are here requested.

However, referring to one of the experts remaining in the office, and because he has reported to participate in one of the meetings, we are here trying to fill the questionnaire from his says and 5 pages attached herewith. This has some incompleteness, and we are very sorry for all the inconveniencies. We only can guarantee now we would try to be in the best of our capacity for the future.

Sincerely,

Kebede Yimam
State Minister

☎ 251-(0)11-646-5007
251-(0)11-646-4804
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ፖ.ሳ. ቁጥር
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Website: www.epa.gov.et

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Environment and forest

Name of official submitting the views: Ato Tefera tadesse, Director, NRM on behalf of HE Ato Kebebde Yimam, State Minister of Forest Sector

Address: POBox +251-116464882/76

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E-mail: ydkeb@yahoo.co.uk

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000 and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions are sufficient enough to take necessary actions related to all types of forests.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: UNFF has performed better. Among its principal functions, the achievments of UNFF in facilitating implementation of forest-related agreements and provision of continued policy development and dialogue among Governments and international organizations ranked first.

[4] Please see these documents at:
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF should continue for the future as the issue of forests is not a one time go and still there are different forest related issues needing further consideration.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: As UNFF is a forum established to undertake forest related issues, it will have a potential role to play both in the Post-2015 develoment agenda as well as SDGs; in the area of environmental sustainability and conservation of resources for development.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The role and impact of country-led initiatives and ad-hoc expert groups UNFF were important for the forum as in-depth discussions of some of the very complex and politically sensitive issues during regular sessions of each processes were managed by them.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: The engagement and participation of major groups in the work of the forum were adequate and effective.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Both the IYF and International Day of Forests were important experiences in connection to forests. They were important in raising public awareness on the socio-economic and environmental roles of forests. They were also a good opportunity to showcase success stories, build partnerships between different stakeholders, encourage public participation at all levels, and build awareness on important forestry issues.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☐	☒

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: It created fertile ground for negotiation andinternational conventions.
C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: The forest instrument and GOFs will contribute to the environmental sustainability dimension of Post-2015 development agenda and to the conservation of resources for development in SDGs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat
D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates: ☒ Adequate ☐ Inadequate ☐ Not sure Additional explanation:
D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: -
D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: -

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: The availability of voluntary Global Forest Fund will be very importat to attain SFM objective; however, it should not be overlaping with REDD+ inernational fund mechanism being under discussion at the UNFCCC.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: -

mmm.fi

unff@un.org
moeini-meybodi@un.org
sam2@un.org

FINLAND'S SUBMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS

Dear Sir,

Please find attached Finland's submission for the review of the International Arrangement on Forests in response to the invitation by the UNFF Secretariat (ref. UNFF-13-L-HMM-219).

The submission has been prepared in a participatory manner involving relevant government ministries and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Juha Ojala
Director General

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puh. 0295 16 001 • faksi (09) 160 54202

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
PO Box 30, FI-00023 GOVERNMENT, Finland (Helsinki)
tel. +358 295 16 001 • fax +358 9 160 54202

UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement of Forests

FINLAND's Views on the International Arrangement on Forests

General

- Finland aligns itself with the submission of the European Union and its member States and provides this submission as an additional input.
- Finland considers the assessment of the International Arrangement on Forests extremely important. In this respect we wish to provide the following initial views as prepared on the basis of inter-ministerial and stakeholder consultation.
- At this stage we focus on views and experiences concerning mainly the past performance of the IAF. We feel that timing for the future options will be later after getting some feedback from the independent review and the outcome of the first AHEG meeting.
- The format for soliciting views and proposals provided by the UNFF Secretariat was found too rigid and the questions somewhat leading. Consequently, in our reply we will only follow the general headings of the format.

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its processes since 2000
(including AHEGs, CLIs/OLIs, involvement of major groups, International Year/Day of Forests)

- UNFF has provided a forum at a high level in the UN system to address forest related issues in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The UNFF has also provided a global framework for forest policy coordination and development and promoted sustainable forest management as part of sustainable development. The universal membership is unique within the UN system. The wide range of substantive issues covered within its programmes of work has emphasized the complex nature of forest issues compared to the forest related conventions, which consider forest issues from a much narrower angle.
- The IPF-IFF-UNFF process has been a collective learning process about common understanding on sustainable forest management. Especially the IPF/IFF phase brought some positive changes into national policies and practices (eg. national forest programmes, participatory approaches, stakeholder involvement). On the other hand, many of the UNFF resolutions have just repeated what had already been agreed during the IPF-IFF process or even been weaker than the IPF-IFF proposals for action. There is not much evidence that UNFF resolutions have had such impact at the national level as the previous IPF/IFF proposals for action.
- The AHEG meetings have been important to discuss and prepare specific issues in a slightly more informal setting than the ordinary UNFF sessions. The AHEG meetings have also kept forest issues at the global agenda between the UNFF sessions especially in 2007-2015 when the UNFF has met every second year.
- The CLI- and OLI-meetings have been a flexible tool to focus on certain specific issues outside the UN-setting. Over 30 CLI-meetings have shown the commitment of countries to promote the work of the UNFF. Some new ideas have been promoted through the CLIs, e.g. the CLI "Contribution of Forests to a Green Economy" contributed to the introduction of the concept of "green economy" into the Rio+20 process and UNFF10 resolutions. In many cases, however, the outcome of the CLIs has not really been incorporated into the work of the UNFF.
- The UNFF has recognized the major groups as important stakeholders in forest policy development and implementation. However, their participation has been somewhat marginalized into a separate multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions without a direct link to the work of the UNFF or the outcome of the UNFF sessions. This trend has continuously strengthened during last years.
- In principle, communication on forest related issues is important. International Year of Forests might have increased the visibility of forest sector. On the other hand there are very many international years on

different topics and it is not sure how much it really created awareness outside the forest sector. It should be carefully considered what the role of the UNFF Secretariat in communication is.

- Despite its broad mandate the UNFF has not really succeeded to be the leader in global forest policy issues. Other forest related processes (notably the climate changes negotiations and to some extent FLEGT-issues and land use issues) has achieved much more political attention. The commitment of countries to UNFF work has weakened during the years and the impact of UNFF resolutions to national policies and practices due to their soft law nature has been modest. The UNFF in its present form can be considered rather expensive, bureaucratic and inefficient and it has not managed to have any major impact to other forest related processes or to other sectors.
- The major challenge at the moment is to have an impact to the post-2015 development agenda considerations in order to have the contribution of forest sector in green economy recognized. At the same time there is an urgent need for forest sector to contribute to the preparation of post 2020 global climate agreement.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

- Agreeing on the four global objectives on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests can be considered as important achievements within the work of the UNFF. In the Finnish bilateral development cooperation the GOFs defined in the Forest Instrument are recognized as basis for forest sector cooperation.
- The global objectives are fairly clear (although monitoring the progress of some of them is difficult, e.g. forest degradation, the forest-based social benefits and the area of sustainably managed forests). Some positive progress has been made in achieving the global objectives, notably in GOF3 and GOF4 and to some extent in GOF1. However, it is evident that the progress has greatly benefitted from the decisions and funding mechanisms of forest related conventions (notably CBD, UNFCCC), e.g. in the increase of protected areas and the official development assistance.
- The pilot projects in the implementation of the Forest Instrument have given some positive feedback.
- The weakness of the Forest Instrument, however, is its soft law nature. It is not known outside the forest sector and even within the forest sector it is not really recognized as an important tool. Its impact on national policies and practices and even on international cooperation does not seem to be significant.

Section D: The UNFF Secretariat

- The management of the secretariat is the key issue. There is room for improvement in order to focus on priorities, provide additional value, and to work effectively and cost-efficient manner. The secretariat is small but its optimal size and the structure depends on its tasks and mandate.
- The location of the secretariat at the UN headquarters brings opportunities by providing direct links to the high level policy discussions e.g. on the post 2015 development agenda, as well as comprehensive representation due to permanent representations located in New York, but on the other hand also challenges e.g. due to the rules and procedures regarding the headquarters.
- In recent year communication has been emphasized in the work of the secretariat. This prioritization might have decreased attention on substantive matters.
- The substantive capacity of the secretariat has probably weakened over the years, e.g. the CPF member organizations have not seconded senior officials to the secretariat recently.

Section E: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its member organizations

- The voluntary network of CPF organizations has increased networking, coordination and collaboration between them. The support by the CPF and its member organizations in the work of UNFF has been essential in some areas (e.g. forest financing). The Global Forest Expert Panels have increased the use of scientific information in the political decision making. Another good example of the work of the CPF is streamlining the forest related reporting. The joint statements by the CPF to other forest related processes e.g. on climate change, biodiversity and land use issues have increased their weight and visibility.
- The CPF member organizations have supported directly the work of the UNFF by seconding senior officials to the UNFF Secretariat. This direct support, however, have decreased over the years.
- The UNFF can only give guidance to the CPF and it is up to its member organizations to allocate resources to the UNFF related work. Some CPF member organizations feel the CPF as an obligation and many member organizations are rather passive. Each CPF organization has its own agenda and there is competition between them and so allocating resources for joint actions is a challenge.
- Linkage between the member countries, UNFF and CPF could be intensified. It would be worthwhile to consider how to address this, e.g. the UNFF bureau or its Chair to attend the CPF meetings.

Section F: Forest related financing / Means of Implementation

- Means of implementation has been in the agenda of every UNFF session. The discussions have focused mainly on forest related financing in developing countries although means of implementation covers also other issues.
- The key question is how the governments are willing to improve the enabling conditions and policy means at the national level in order to channel investments from different sources into forest sector.
- Financing needs and opportunities have been analyzed thoroughly during the years and there is wealth of information available. The CPF has produced the online Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management, which should be used more efficiently by the governments. The active governments have benefitted from different financing options which have increased considerably over the years. The Facilitative Process has helped to some extent some countries in identifying funding sources.
- The discussion on forest financing and especially on the Global Forest Fund has dominated the UNFF sessions and taken too much attention from other substantive issues. The discussion might have created unrealistic expectations concerning increased forest financing through UNFF.

საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა გაერთიანებული ერების ორგანიზაციასთან

PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

№ 19/48311

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations presents its complements to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and with reference to the letter of Mr. Jan L. McAlpine, Director of UNFF N 006448, dated by 25 October 2013 and has the honour to convey the filled-in questionnaire, reflecting the views and proposals of the LEPL "National Forestry Agency", Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: 5 pages.

New York, 25 November 2013

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources protection, National forestry Agency

Name of official submitting the views: Merab Sharabidze, Senior Adviser

Address: 6 Gulus str, Tbilisi Georgia 0114

Phone/Fax: +995599232224

E-mail: merab.sharabidze@gmail.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: UNFF structure and biennial sessions are sufficient to ensure implementation of appropriate guidelines and activities;

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: According to ECOSOC resolutions UNFF's activities and performance can be evaluated as efficient and vital for further development, especially for increasing the list of participant countries and enhancing their capacities.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Broadening and promoting UNFF's forest-related priorities and programs in new participant countries.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF's efforts to ensure involvement of developing countries. It is necessary to strengthen or amand forest issues in different Conventions administrated by UN organizations.
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The role of AD HOC expert groups involved in UNFF activities should be observing implementation of multi-year programs, as well as identifying forest-related issues and evaluating their value and reasonability.
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: Engagement of major groups in the activities of UNFF represents a positive fact for further progressive performance and desirable outcomes. Invelvement of groups other than "major groups"is also very important e.g. mountan people who are very much depend on forest products and services.
B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: : Focusing on the importance of forest and biodiversity is the core purpose for their further development. Namely to this end, the role and impact of the International Year of the Forest and International Day of the Forest should be subject of discussion and promotion at any level.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)
C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument: ☒ Adequate ☐ Inadequate ☐ Not sure C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☒	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: More active work at national level.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Implementation of the forest instrument ensures coordinated and interactive cooperation between the UNFF and relevant global and regional MEAs is absolutely necessary. Achievements and findings of forest instrument should be taken into account by secretariats of MEAs and activities of UNFF should be guided by MEAs. Insure that forest issues are adeqiately explained in these MEAs.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: To put special clauses in post-2015 UN development agenda for developing countries as well as for countries in transition, as they should take special efforts to improve the management of their forests, inter alia, to mobilize financial resources and support.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: The secretariat should be strengthen.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Keeping participants updated with consequences of the sessions and credible news.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Increse visibility of the secretariat with active role at national level.

Georgia 4

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Recent activities of CPF have shown very coherent and effective direction towards the work of UNFF and its member countries. It's obvious that the mission of CPF gained extensive experience in enhancing cooperation and coordination on forest issues.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: More active continuation of the current direction.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Creation of Global Forest Fund is a good idea, one of the main contributors should be forest companies dealing with forest harvesting (transfer of small part of their profit).
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Option is the creation of separate section or direction in GEF.

Cables and Telegrames: MINLANDS
Telephone: 233-302-687314
Tel/Fax: 233-302-666801

In case of reply,
the number and date of this
letter should be quoted.

Our Ref. No. FA.48/78/01

Your Ref. No.

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
P. O. Box M 212 Accra.

NOVEMBER 20TH 2013

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS SECRETARIAT
1 UN PLAZA, DC1-1245D
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBMISSION OF GHANA'S INPUTS TO THE PROPOSALS ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON FORESTS (IAF)

We are pleased to submit to you Ghana's inputs to the proposals on the International Arrangements on Forests for your consideration.

Due to some administrative challenges, we could not forward this to you before the deadline of 30th October 2013. We therefore apologize for the undue delays in our submission.

Counting on your cooperation in such matters.

Yours faithfully,

GIFTY BIYIRA MAHAMA (MRS)
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION
FOR: MINISTER

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GHANA

Name of official submitting the views: JOSEPH OSIAKWAN

Address: MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, P.O. BOX MB212, ACCRA, GHANA

Phone/Fax: 233-0302-687346/0302-666801

E-mail: josephosiakwan@yahoo.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) . Current arrangements are adequate but need to be strengthened _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: YES, they are sufficient.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: 1. The successful piloting, adoption and implementation of the NLBI by many member countries. 2. The successful celebration of the IYF; 3. Consistency in the organization of expert groups and other consultative meetings on forest issues prior to general meetings of member states. 4. UNFF has succeeded in attracting attention from many governments on long-term financial and political commitments to sustainable forest management.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: 1. UNFF should adopt the International Day of Forests as declared as a mainstream annual event. 2. Mechanisms for sustainable forest financing should be a major priority for on UNFF Agenda, e.g. Implementing the proposed Global Forest Fund. 3. Facilitate capacity building of member states to implement international agreements on forests.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF should participate activiely in deepening the understanding of governments on the role of forestry in poverty alleviation and national development. 2. UNFF should ensure that forestry becames a stand alone area in the post 2015 development agenda and SDGs.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: CLI'sinitiatives and work of expert groups are complimentary efforts to the work of UNFF and must be encouraged.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: Work of major groups is also complementary to the work of UNFF and provides a extended platform for wider stakeholder consultation.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: They were excellent platforms for creating massive public awareness and securing political commitment for sustainable forest management and should be mainstreamed into the work of UNFF.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Capacity building of member states to enable them implement NLBI

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐

GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Secure increased political commitment and sustainable financing by member states.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Enhanced cooperation and coordination of forestry issues at country-level, a good example is Ghana.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: They still remain very relevant and critical inputs into the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: The Secretariat requires a sustainable funding source.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Secure sustainable funding sources. 2. Create a unit within the Secretariat to support development of country level projects.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Build capacity of technical staff to effectively coordinate various component of the Secretariat's work.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Their contributions have been supportive of countries implementing agreements but this requires further enhancement of their support to member states

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Enhance efforts to secure funding to enable scaling up collaboration with member states in the implementation of agreements.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Sustainable financial mechanism including Global Forest Fund and National Forest Funds be created to generate additional internal and external funding for sustainable forest management.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: 1. Establish a committee to develop proposals for funding. 2. UNFF to mandate member states to create a national forest funds.

Ref. No. .....
In replying the above Number and date of this letter should be quoted.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
LANDS, FORESTRY, FISHERIES
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
MINISTERIAL COMPLEX
BOTANICAL GARDENS
ST. GEORGE'S
GRENADA, W.I.

November 14, 2013

Ms. Thida Sam
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
2 United Nations Plaza
DC2 – 230813
New York
New York 1007
USA

Dear Ms. Sam,

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment presents its compliments to the staff of the Secretariat.

Please find attached the submission of the Grenada/Forestry and National Parks Division of this Ministry on the stated subject. " UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forest Format for soliciting view and proposals on the International Agreement on Forest, United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariats July 2013".

We welcome the opportunity to participate.

Respectfully,

Bernadette Lendore-Sylvester (Mrs.)
PERMANENT SECRETARY
***with responsibility for* FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

BL-S/at

Attach

Phone: (473) 440-2708/3386/3078 Facsimile: agriculture@gov.gd. Fax: (473) 440-4191

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Name of official submitting the views: Aden Forteau

Address: Ministerial Complex, Botanical Gardens, Tanteen, St. George's, Grenada

Phone/Fax:

E-mail: michael_forteau@yahoo.co.uk and adenforteau@yahoo.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe)

A legally binding instrument may contribute to greater compliance by member states/parties on the four global objectives on forest , forest instrument and the MDG's. (The consequences of Non-compliance should be great enough to ensure compliance). Additionally, a legally binding instrument may result in greater consideration given by CPF to member states (particularly the SIDS) for new and additional resources to ensure implementation for sustainable forest management -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The current UNFF structure seems quite sufficient, however the biennial sessions are not enough to take necessary actions regarding all types of forest. For example, debate conclusions/recommendations from biennial sessions are based on consencus and does not necessarily means that the conditionalities regarding all parties and all type of forests are reflected. Time limitation is also associated with the biennial sessions, thus making it

impossible for member states to sufficiently delebriate on the situation and circumstances regarding forest in their respective states. Additionally, not all member states are usually present at biennial session due to lack of financial resources etc.
B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/494: In the absence of sufficient resources and a Legally-Binding Instrument, I think that the UNFF's performance regarding the promotion of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthening of long-term political commitment was great. Accomplishment of the four Global objectives, the NLBI, and development goals including the MDG's requires the availability of technical and financial resources etc. UNFF through its awareness initiatives particularly the International Year of the Forest (Forest 2011) has raised forest consciousness and significantly contributed to increased efforts at national, regional and international levels for the sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forest. UNFF has invited and facilitated the participation of Ministers from representative member states to biennial sessions in an effort to strengthen political commitment for sustainable forest management. UNFF also ensures that the recommendations from sessions are communicated to the CPF particularly the three major Rio Convention. However more effort is needed by UNFF in facilitating the provision of resources to ensure greater participation of member states to meetings/sessions.
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: I think that the UNFF should continue functioning under it's present structure but with more atonomy and support (legislative, financial etc.) from the CPF and other key partners to facilitate sustainable forest management in member states.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF potential roles in implementing UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs should speak mainly to coordination and facilitation. UNFF should actively liaise with key members of the CPF, intergovernmental agencies, major groups etc. to ensure that mechanisms are in place for implementation and feedback (monitoring and evaluation are crucial in this regard).
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The work of the UNFF regarding Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups is fundamental because countries/Focal Points are given the opportunity to deliberate on key issues pertaining to the implementation of the Four Global Objectives on Forest, the Forest Instrument and Development Goals. Furthermore, countries are able to address implementation constraints confronting their capacity to effectively and efficiently implement SFM and contribute to meaningful recommendations for analysis and appropriate action by UNFF for Global SFM. Country-ed Initiatives should be encouraged and intensified.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: The intent of the major group network is good, however there is need for greater synergies between and within major groups for the implementation of the forest instrument and related areas. A strategic plan is needed for major groups. Such a plan should fully capture the roles and responsibilities of individual groups and must also capture the means of implementation for UNFF issues. Facilitation for strengthening coordination among groups is crucial.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: I think that the role of the International Year of Forest (IYF) and the International Day of Forest (IDF) in promoting awareness and strengthening political commitment for forest were key and crucial. These events have raised individual, community and political consciousness on the use and importance of forest at the national, regional and internationnal levels. The understanding and actions towards SFM are now more positive compared to prior the implementation of IDF & IYF.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: UNFF's role and capacity in facilitating SFM should be strengthened.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Need strengthening of synergies (corporation, coordination & collaboration) at all levels (CPF, major groups, intergovernmental organisations, NGO's, politicians etc.) to ensure adequate progress of the four Global Objectives on Forest.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: The objectives of the forest instrument are consistent with the goals and objectives of the forest related international conventions and consequently, the implementation of the conventions goals automatically mean implementation of the forest instrument and the four global objectives on forest and vice versa .

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: The forest instrument and the GOFs are geared towards management, conservation, sustainable development of forest resources and strengthening of political commitment. These would contribute positively to the provision of livelihoods, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation etc. All of the above mentioned contribution are consistent with the post-2015 UN development agenda and the SDG's.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation: The works /commitments of the UNFF secretariat are tremendous and it is therefore crucial that sufficient staff and associated resources be made available for the successful implementation of SFM.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Suggestions for the Secretariat of the UNFF to function more efficiently include the following: 1) Members of the CPF and other key stakeholders must provide support to ensure sufficient financial and other resources for the UNFF Secretariat. 2) All stakeholders including member states, intergovernmental organisations, major groups, NGO's etc. must ensure timely submission of reports and 3) Provide to the UNFF Secretariat , appropriate, timely and accurate feedback regarding meetings and workshops to ensure that the Secretariat logistical arrangements are effective and efficient.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The Secretariat's role can be strengthened legislation, increased support from members of the CPF and through the implementation of instrument such as institutional analysis to determine gaps in role and responsibilities.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: The CPF programs are designed to meet internationally agreed upon objectives, however the action taken to accomplish the said objectives although necessary are not sufficient and varies from one region to the next. The impacts of some actions are not immediately apparent but will provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. This would contribute positively to climate change mitigation and adaptation, poverty alleviation and community livelihood security, particularly for the poor and vulnerable women. I think that the CPF members should do more to ensure that the UNFF can effectively and efficiently implement resolutions and other essential work.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: The CPF members need to comprehensively analyse the role of the UNFF

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: 1) Develop a special resolution for international forest financing (All relevant parties would derive strategies to implement the resolution).
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: 1) International Forum to derive consensus on forest financing strategy. 2) Hosting of regional meetings/workshops to decide on approach to implement strategy and 3) At the national level ensure consistency with international and regional financial strategies considering all circumstances affecting forest financing. Additionally members of the CPF and major groups should make necessary contributions that would contribute to SFM.

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE BOSQUES
Más bosques para el desarrollo de Guatemala

7a. Ave. 12-90 Zona 13 *PBX: (502) 2329-2626 *FAX: (502) 2472-2070 *www.inab.gob.gt

November 29th, 2013

Ref.G.454-2013

Excellency;

Please find attached the document "UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests".

Sincerely,

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE BOSQUES GERENCIA INAB GUATEMALA

Ing. Amaun Rodolfo Molina Alvarez
Acting Manager

Ms.
Jan L. McAlpine
Director
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

Cc: Mashudu Kamau/Chair of the UNFF11 Bureau

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Instituto Nacional de Bosques - INAB

Name of official submitting the views: Ing. Josué Morales

Address: 7 av. 12-90 zona 13, Ciudad de Guatemala

Phone/Fax: 2321-2626

E-mail: gerencia@inab.gob.gt

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: UNFF structure and its biennial sesssions are not sufficient enough because there is a lack of monitoring and follow-up for all members, since there is a great need of policy advice and guidance on forest issues. There should be a mechanism on which the UNFF structure can grant a better guidance.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/494:

UNFF's performance has helped to develop financial provisions in order to implement a future agreed legal framework supporting all operations and functions for the benefit of forest issues.

Furthermore, its key achievements in implementing its principal functions are:

1. To enhance cooperation
2. To establish a plan of action for the implementations of the Panel
3. To promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: The UNFF in the future should try to:
1. Raise awareness of members at the Forum to harmonize efforts.
2. Address emerging topics that are not within the planned program.
3. Encourage participation of communities and private sector organizations withing UNFF.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:
The potential roles for UNFF are to:
1. Promote and build awareness for the sustainable forest management.
2. Promote and enhance policies and measures addressed on forest issues.
3. Implement research regarding emerging forestry issues.
4. Develop strategies for a sustainable forest management country.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:
Country led initiatives and ad hoc expert groups should play an important role on identify forest-related priorities and facilitate and strenghten collaboration with relevant issues that are identified on programmes that have greater needs.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: Other major groups that need to engage in the work of UNFF should be more participation of private companies, there should be a mechanisms or campaing addressed to this sector in order to increase awareness.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: The role and impact of these two have increased the awareness of communities of all socities because have presented the real needs that forest and environment have, also strenghtening political and public commitment because governments have a social, and environmental commitment with their population.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- [x] Adequate
- [ ] Inadequate
- [ ] Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
Enhance monitoring and follow-up.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
GOF1: Create forest-oriented incentives in order to protect, restore forests.
GOF2: Improve the livelihoods of forest dependent people through programmes that grants knowledge and technical cooperation in order to enhance forest oriented activities.
GOF3: Areas of Protected forests should be warrantied by communities and governments which enhance and promote protection policies.
GOF4: Improve official assistance through political commitment.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:
The implementation of forest instruments helps to secure a political commitment of all members and harmonize processes in order to improve the sustainable forest management. The forest-related international conventions coordinates and consolidates all activities and initiatives supporting the benefits for the forest issues.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:
The Forest Instrument and GOFs can contribute for the progress and challenges that will emerge on 2015, meaning that can prevent certain issues if the GOF's are well monitored and follow-up.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

☒ Adequate
☐ Inadequate
☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन
न्यूयॉर्क
PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
235 EAST 43RD STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL: (212) 490-9660
FAX: (212) 490-9656

No. PMI/NY/FS(AN)/2013 December 05, 2013

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and has the honour to refer to its message UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16th July 2013 and subsequent message reference No.UNFF-13-HMM-L-284 dated 25th October 2013 seeking the views and proposals of member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangements on Forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations has the further honour to enclose herewith the submission of Government of India conveying its views on the IAF.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, the assurances of its highest consideration.

भारत का स्थायी मिशन Permanent Mission of India to the U.N. New York

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and social Affairs
United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301
New York

संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन
न्यूयॉर्क
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Permanent Mission of India to the U.N. New York

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and social Affairs
United Nations Plaza, DC2-2301
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India
Name of official submitting the views: Mr Subhash Chandra

Address: DIG Forests, Forest Policy, Ministry of Environment & Forests. Government of India, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, India

Phone/Fax: +91-11-24363974

E-mail: subhaash.chandra@gmail.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

Current UNFF Insitution needs strengthening in terms of manpower and financial support with scope for regional representaion to effectively address hugely diverse forestry issues and challenges faced globally and to play a critical role in evolving post 2015 SD Agenda. Biennial sessions are quite appropriate, however, more intersessional activities on specific forestry themes & issues with comprehensive Multi Year Programme of works of various programme partners (CPF, Major Groups, MFIs etc.)need to be promoted for greater understanding and coordinated action on forestry issues among major stakeholders. The intersessional activities & AHEG meetings have been very useful in creating platforms for bringing together experts/ professionals in the forestry related fields for building consensus on important forestry issues. Building capacity of all relevant stakeholders, better coordination among them and their continuous engagement is necessary which can be guided by UNFF.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

UNFF since its inception has provided a useful platform by facilitating dialogue among countries and other major stakeholders and has given continuous thrust on mobilising public opinion in support of forestry issues globally. The performance of UNFF since 2000 has been highly appreciable. In around a decade's time, UNFF has been able to bring various relevant & complex forestry issues into focus at important global fora & fostered international cooperation. It has provided a coherent & comprehensive forest policy and reaffirmation of commitment for SFM. In the ongoing international dialogues in the fields of Climate Change, REDD+, Sustainable Forest Management, UNFF has been actively engaged & kept updated the Member States to formalise forestry's important role in UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD. UNFF's Voluntary reports have provided good opportunities to assess the country's progress on achieving GOFs, MDGs, NLBIs etc. UNFF has achieved reasonable success in achieving its main objectives like awareness raising & increasing political commitmment, coordinating action on complex forestry issues, drawing attention towards strengthening forest finance for implementing SFM. It has also strengthened cross sectoral coordination.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Global community should continue to work for finding more effective role of forestry in the progress towards achieving sustainable development and well being of humanity while fully complying with principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which states that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies. Addressing drivers of deforestation, forest degradation, climate change impacts, biodiversity loss need collective efforts. UNFF is the best option to continue to guide/ steer action on forestry issues at global level. It would be appropriate that the existing arrangement is strengthened. UNFF as an institution has already gained good expertise, capacity & experience. It has global recognition and support of member countries. The time is to build upon the present strength and work for greater coordinated action on forests by integrating forestry in the various programmes sustainable development and making it a critical part of strategies & action programmes under existing international conventions.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

As of now the exact and final shape of UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs are not very clear and no finality on SDGs has come out, therefore, it is not possible to comment at this stage.However, India has deep appreciation for the excellent work done by UNFF in fulfilling its manadate in spite of its limited resources. India acknowledges significant contribution made by UNFF and expect that UNFF will continue to play an important role in guiding forestry related action in future by mobilizing greater international support in the forestry sector from various stakeholders, multilateral financial institutions, major groups

including the private sector. Financing SFM is also great challenge & requires, multiple approaches and cross sectoral support with UNFF playing a critical role .UNFF with its vast experinence is best suited to coordinate forestry related action in existing as well as furure conventions in multisectoral levels/platforms. UNFF can help in evolving international policy framework for REDD+ and guiding effective implementation.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

There have been a number of significant country led initiatives in respect of achieving Sustainable Management of Forests, Four Global objectives on Forests and implmentation of Non Legally Binding Instrument in last few years. The Ad-Hoc Expert Group Meetings on strengthening Forest Finance were a good success in drawing attention of various stakeholders towards the huge gap in demand and availability of financing in the forestry sector for ensuring SFM. However, much still needs to be done. This momentum needs to be maintained by continuous support, follow up and coordinated efforts of UNFF. UNFF Sessions have attracted large number of countries, organizatuions, stakeholders, youth, women, members of Civil Society Groups, Media etc. India has exchanged experiences with other countries and taken a number of initiatives in the forestry sector like initiating Green India Mission and green rural development through MGNREGA schemes.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

UNFF has provided an excellent platform for sharing views with partners of Major Groups in its sessions and intersessional activities. It is relevant to mention that major groups have tremendous stakes in forests and will continue to play an important role in SFM. Efforts need to be made for continuous and effective engagement of these in evolving policy framework, and strengthening their role in implementing and promoting SFM. There is a need to develop a number of appropriate and effective communication strategies to renew their interests and contiuous engagement of such a diverse group of stakeholders. Tribals, Women, Youth, Forest Based industries can play an important role in forest conservation and SFM and derive optimum benefits. Their efforts and skills upgradation need to be supported by forest managers, NGOs , scientists with due publicity by media.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

International Year of Forests in 2011 and its theme forests for people has brought forestry into the mainstream of discussions once again quite effectively. India organised a series of programmes on International Year of Forests in 2011 and this year for celebration of Internatioanl Day of Forests. But this momentum need to be maintained to engage various stakeholders, academicia, media, corporate and private sector for generating a stronger political commitment and adequate resources for SFM. The positive aspects of forestry need to highlighted for engaging larger section of the society.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Some of the suggestions for effective implementation of are given below:

1. Greater financial and technical support to countries for awareness and capacity building among all stakeholders for supporting SFM.
2. Continue efforts of strengthening linkages of forestry sector & SFM to sustainable economic development.
3. Augmentation of efforts for greater resource mobilization for SFM in developing countries.
4. Focus on specific regional, national and sub-national forestry issues to address deforestation and forest degradation.
5. Enhancing ODA to developing countries for specific forestry sector programmes,etc.
6. Enhancing more coordination at Regional level.
7. Capacity building of stakeholders at national level for better coordination among nodal points of other concerned departments/ agencies.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Following measures are suggested:

1.Enhance cross sectoral coordination in the forestry sector through an appropriate institutional mechanism.

2. Vigorously pursuing effective communication strategies for increasing awareness to broader section of society on important forestry issues.

3. Continuing efforts for creating greater economic opportunities in the forestry sector

including increasing financial investment in afforestation, conservation, efficient processing and marketing of forest products and creation of jobs.
4. Ensuring adequate investment in creating a large pool of technically trained manpower, encouraging scientific research in the forestry sector including developing suitable models for rehabilitation of degraded lands, improving soil and water conservation and higher productivity.
5. Creating greater linkages with international conventions -UNFCCC, CBD & CCD, multilateral financial institutions, CPF members for integrated action in the forestry sector.
6. Working for greater international cooperation including knowledge sharing, transfer of technology, scientific capacity building,
7. Creation of Global Forest Fund for exclusively meeting the needs of forestry sector.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

The Policy and measures under the FI are comprehensive and include almost all the aspects of SFM. Though some of the elements of the Forest Instrument (NLBI) are already included in various programmes implemented under different forest related international conventions and have contributed significantly in achieving the targets of CBD, UNFCCC and CCD, still there is lot of scope for strengthening implementation of NLBI to accelerate achievement of target for these conventions. REDD+ under UNFCCC is a specific forestry intervention to enhance carbon sequestration through forest and trees, however, the progress is mainly on preparedness and a lot of work is required on developing international architecture to implement REDD+ effectively. Forests are very important storehouses for biodiversity and the measures taken towards SFM will certainly lead to enhancement of biodiversity. Forests are the most effective tools for combating desertification. The role of forests in maintaining water cycle, drought mitigation, food security, risk mitigation of forest dependent people is very important. Forest Instrument and forest related action in various international conventions are thus mutually supportive.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

There are strong linkages between GOFs and Sustainable Development. Long term sustainability is not possible without sustainable management of forests. Forest Instrument addresses all the forestry issues comprehensively. Forests are critical for food security, water management, soil productivity, fisheries, maintaining longevity of dams by controlling soil erosion & siltation, biomass for energy, recreation & cultural services, storing biodiversity, supporting pollination etc. The products and services from forests are critical for society. Significant progress on GOFs is necessary to ensure ecological & environmental balance. Forestry, therefore, should be given adequate attention and support through cross sectoral programmes and interventions. Forests can be viewed as a critical sector for creating jobs. With growing population and resultant increase in demend for natural resources the focus should be more directed to enhance natural capital.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

The role & mandate of UNFF is already quite comprehensive and in the light of Rio+20, ongoing review of international arrangement on forests and Post- 2015 UN Development Agenda, it has further broadened. It is required to engage member countries and major stakeholders on forestry issues. The Manpower and financial resources available with UNFF are not sufficient to shoulder the enhanced responsibilty. There is urgent need of finding ways and means to strengthen UNFF for enabling it to play its role effectively. Member countries, CPF Members & Multilateral Institutions may be invited to support UNFF Secretariat.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

The current structure and available resources with the UNFF are highly inadequate to meet the requirement of increased work. Following suggestions are made:

1. There is a need to increase manpower at the Forum Secretariat. The Member countries may be invited to nominate their Representatives to the UNFF Secretariat on a fixed term basis to carry out work in support of UNFF. This can be done on rotational basis.
2. CPF members and major groups can also be requested for nominating their representatives to work for UNFF.
3. Considering the complexity and vast variations in forestry issues & challenges of different regions, creation of regional level institutional mechanism for strengthening regional cooperation in the forestry sector may be thought of which can be supported by CPF members.
4. The financial resources with UNFF need to be augmented with contributions from willing organizations and in this regard creation of appropriate mechanism may be considered.
5. Participation of private/corporate sector for supporting UNFF's activities may be encouraged especially in scientific research & development, involving communities, enhancing value of forest products and services, preparation of data base etc.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

There is a need for regular engagement of UNFF Secretariat with CPF Members to build on the work already done and enhance collaboration for future programs. Following suggestions

may be considered:

1. CPF members and major groups can be invited for nominating their representatives to work for UNFF.
2. Considering the complexity and vast variations in forestry issues & challenges of different regions, creation of regional level institutional mechanism for strengthening regional cooperation in the forestry sector may be thought of, which can be supported by CPF members based on their core programmes. FAO's regional offices need to be strengthened and supported by CPF members.
3. Every CPF member may take up specific thematic programmes to support UNFF in implementing FI (NLBI) in a time bound manner.
4. CPF members may channelize contributions from willing organizations to support UNFF and in this regard creation of appropriate mechanism may be considered.
5. CPF members may be encouraged to support especially in scientific research & development, involving communities, enhancing value of forest products and services, preparation of data base etc.

***India* 8**

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

The organization led initiatives have been significant and reasonably successful in implementing resolutions of UNFF. There has been good progress on forest policy, law and governance. Also good initiatives have been made in assessing economic contribution of forests. Action on REDD+ readiness is also progressing well despite pending methodological and technical issues. However, there is still huge gap in action for holistically addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, improving forest based livelihoods, valuation of non cash & ecological services from forests for correct reflection of contribution of forestry sector in national economies. Each CPF Member, therefore, should play an important part in a specific theme of forestry in its area of influence.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

FAO should continue to support UNFF and guide CPF members to have specific focal areas and can enhance support on forestry programmes within their mandate. There is need for greater and continued coopertaion among CPF members to reduce duplication of works and greater resource mobilization on desired programme areas. Creating critical mass of technical manpower to drive forestry programmes and building capacity of stakeholders should be given high priority. World Bank, UNEP, GEF, UNDP can support funding of SFM through REDD+ Programmes. CBD programmes can strengthen livelihood programmes in forests by supporting biodiversity conservation and its sustained use, processing and value addition and sharing of benefits out of trade of biodiversity products. Combating desertification, drought proofing can create job opportunities in afforestation, soil & moisture conservation, forest protection. GEF is already supporting SFM which can be further enhanced. UNFF with CPF programme partners can enhance efforts in desirable and focussed programme areas and avoid duplication of efforts.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

Though the various global conventions where Forest have a Sharp focus, have yet not been able to provide adequate technical and financial support to enhance the flow of various ecological services, conservation & SFM. Hence, there is need to identify the gap and need to flow of financing to forests from all resources.

Strengthening forest financing is critical for bringing new areas under forests/trees, addressing forest degradation, protection of existing forests & implementing SFM. Arranging adeqate finance is a major area of concern for developing countries requiring augmenting finance in the forestry sector in a systematic and sustained manner. Creation of Global Forest

Fund on voluntary basis is a good idea, expected to help bringing together different agencies working in the forest related sectors for coordinated action.

2. Private & corporate sector including international NGOs may be encouraged to invest in forestry as part of responsible action with appropriate incentives considering expenditure on forestry as an important development expenditure. Programmes of water, rural development, agriculture, climate change mitigation & adaptation etc. should consider forestry an important component in their overall strategies.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

As there are no simple solutions to develop forest financing options to meet SFM needs, following suggestions may be looked into:

1.UNFF with FAO may coordinate international action on policy and governance and become a nodal agency for monitoring comprehensive action on forestry under international conventions.

2.Each CPF member/ Organization may adopt a special theme/ programme area for focussed action and work comprehensively.

3. Specific forestry components under GEF & Multilateral Financial Institutions

4.Building partnerships for involving Private/ Corporate Sector, foundations, NGOs, Industries etc. to contribute in specific programme areas on livelihood improvement, capacity building with appropriate incentives. CSR in forestry to be encouraged.

5. A component of forestry action to be made compulsory part of programmes in related sectors like agriculture, rural development. Industrial develpment, poverty reduction programmes, renewable energy , ecotourism, water, fisheries sectors etc.

6. Compensatory afforestation against diversion of forests must be ensured from the funding support of user agencies.

7.Universities & scientific institutions to enhance work on R&D for better economic opportunities in forestry sector.

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

No. 06 /EC-301/IV14

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and has the honor to extend to the latter a submission from the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on the International Arrangement of Forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 2 February 2014

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Name of official submitting the views: Toferry P. Soetikno [National Focal Point]

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Section A: Post-2015 options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

- The UNFF structure continues to face increasing challenges particularly in view of the on going debate on SDG's and greater global interests on SFM. Biennial sessions is perceived to be moderately sufficient in addressing global challenges on forest issues and providing policy advice and guidance. However, if it deems necessary, UNFF may meet at an extraordinary session to address particular pressing issues.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49*:

- The UNFF has proven as an effective forum addressing issues related to all types of forests. Its presence has also been widely known by the public. The NLBI and four global goals on forests have been recognised as some of the UNFF key achivements. The International Year of Forest has also been instrumental to disseminating information and increasing public awareness on the importance of forest for future generations.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

- The future options of the UNFF will mainly depend on the political will of all Governments. The effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the UNFF should be prioritized. The UNFF should increase its significant role on SFM policies at all levels.
The implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forest should give positive contribution in managing forest policy related to the SFM at national, regional, and global levels.
The current structure of UNFF should be maintained in the near future, as it is still effective in providing a forum for forest-related deliberation, both on the substance and the involvement of all stakeholders. In the future, the UNFF should be more active in developing and collaborating partnerships with other UN related agencies and encourage their involvement in major activities of the UNFF. However, it is necessary to avoid the duplication of activities of other UN related agencies. The UNFF activities should be complimentary to other UN agencies.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

- A specific agenda on post 2015 development agenda and SDGs related to Forest will encourage international initiatives on various aspects of forests activities. In this regard, the UNFF should play its pivotal roles to give inputs to both forums in addressing forests related issues on protection and sustainable forest management, environmental sustainability, and the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests. UNFF should, within their capacity, play its parts in the discussion of the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. The future biennial sessions should be optimally used not only to define all stake holders contribution, but also to regularly review the UNFF work on this issue.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

- CLI and AHEG have been playing important contributions in the work of UNFF. The nature of these two mechanisms have proved to be effective in terms of technical, expertise and budget. The future CLI and AHEG as intersessional activites should be focussed and oriented to address crucial and difficult issues on forest as well as to propose them for the deliberation in the UNFF biennial sessions. Similarly, Organization-Led initative should continue playing an important role in providing contribution to the future work of UNFF.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

- The major groups should continue playing their significant role in the work of UNFF. In order to have effective engagement and important contribution, the major groups should be given a sufficient space in the work of UNFF.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

- The declaration of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests should be complemented by concrete activities "beyond a celebration". It should be used not only to increase public awareness, but more importantly, become a key guidance on the daily SFM practices. General trend shows that forestry and forest issues have not been given enough attention in international and national development agendas. In this context, UNFF should continue actively developing approaches in disseminating information and increasing public awareness on the importance of forests for future generations. In Indonesia, the Year was celebrated by a number of activites that include among others, "One billion trees planting" program that encourages people and corporations to contribute to environmental conservation, and the introduction of The National Forestry Planning 2011-2030, that aim to develop SFM through setting national target of land rehabilitation.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the Four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

- Improving progress on the implementation of forest instruments requires multifaceted actions at all levels that include: strengthening national laws and regulations in terms of sanctions for SFM illegal practices; a strong political will at all Governments' levels that put SFM as a high priority, sustainable and sufficient funding from both the international community and local/domestic budget; greater role of private sectors in implementing SFM principles; and Government "rewards and punishments" for the implementation of SFM by the private sectors. As for Indonesia, we have undertaken serious efforts in putting in place mandatory timber legality certification (known as SVLK) as part of our contribution to SFM as well as the implementation of various UNFF resolutions. The certification is the first of its kind and has been recognized in The Indonesia-EU FLEGT-Voluntary Partnership Agreement signed in September 2013.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

- Progress improvement will mainly depend on how Governments at all levels translate their commitments on GOFs into their laws and policies. While it is closely related to C.2, it is important to stress that national governments set their national quantified targets on certain related objectives, including percentage of their national budgets allocated to SFM as well as increasing the livelihood of forest dependent people. Similarly, international financial institutions should also be able to provide adequate and sustainable funding.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

- The forest instrument should be a complementary instrument that may guide decisions of other forest related international conventions. UNFCCC, UNCBD and some regional conventions have recognized the importance of forests issues and tried to link them with GOFs. On the other hand, there remain numbers of challenges on 'transmitting' the legally binding decisions of forest-related international conventions into the work of UNFF. However, the spirit of these legally binding decisions may be adopted in the UNFF future works.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

- The forest instrument and the GOFs have been the milestones decisions in the work of the UNFF. Their long and exhaustive decision making process should be fully considered as a guidance in the broader work of the UN, particularly in the formulation and implementation

of the post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. Existing and proposed goals relating to forests and targets on poverty reduction, ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture could be aligned under a cross cutting issues SDG.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the current Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

- A stronger UNFF Secretariat is required in order to overcome pressing challenges in regards to the implementation of SFM, SDGs and other forest related conventions. For this purpose, Governments should consider providing and increasing their non-earmarked budgets to the work of the Secretariat. In addition, the increased number of Governments' seconded officers into the Secretariat should be considered. In improving the efficiency of its work, UNFF should develop its engagement with actors from the non-forestry-sector, such as stakeholders from industry, mining, agriculture, public works and human settlements.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Please see D.2

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

- CPF and CPF member organizations have been playing pivotal role in supporting the UNFF works and in the implentation of UNFF resolutions. With their unique expertise, they have given positive impacts to the work of UNFF.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

- It is important to consider a greater involvement of experts from tropical forest countries to provide more insights and effective contributions to the work of CPF organizations.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

- The creation of a voluntary GFF should be seriously considered as part of important strategies in the future. The current financial structure is found to be ineffective in tackling emerging financial difficulties faced by majority of developing countries in dealing with their forest management.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

- UNFF-11 is expected to take decision on this urgent matter, including the strengthening of public-private partnership (ppp) and developing inovative financing menchanism.

MAFF
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

13 November, 2013

To whom it may concern about Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat,
CC: Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi, Secretariat of UNFF
Ms. Thida Sam, Secretariat of UNFF

Dear Sir/Madam,

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit our Views and Proposals on IAF to UNFF Secretariat attached herewith as requested.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Satoshi AKAHORI
Director of International Forestry Cooperation Office,
Forestry Agency,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

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July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Government of Japan

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- Other options (please describe) As legally binding agreement(LBA) on forest, there is the International Tropical Timber Agreement of 2006 equipped with funding mechanism as means of implementation of SFM, and Forest Europe has been negotiating to conclude an
- ☒ LBA on forest in Europe, which will be agreed at the extraordinary ministerial conference this November. UNFF is expected to be the interface for various activities of forest related organizations including C&I processes, and play a role as a platform for them. -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: As only one fourth member countries submit country reports and the secretariat of UNFF is not making comprehensive analysis of those submitted reports, the current UNFF structure cannot be considered as framework of providing policy advice and guidance. Instead, current UNFF structure seems to be sufficient if UNFF plays a role as a platform to assemble all multi-stakeholders such as member countries, international organizations and processes, and so on.

Japan 2

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: Adoption of Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and the Multi-Year Programme of Work
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: As answered in A.1 section, UNFF should play a role as a platform to interface various international frameworks on forest such as Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF) including ITTO and FAO, and C&I process through introducing and sharing information on projects implemented and outcomes produced to improve access to information and funding for member countries and facilitate networking each other as well as to activate their activities. Further UNFF reporting based on NLBI should be streamlined to reduce country burden of reporting by using CFRQ which is developed by collaboration of 6 C&I process and FAO, it is highly recommended.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF should provide the platform for various forest related organizations such as CPF member organizations and C&I processes, to discuss on the UN post-2015 development agenda and the new SDGs. UNFF is expected to form the consolidated opinions among them and to input the opinions appropriately to the UN post-2015 agenda and SDGs based on the discussion. In addition, UNFF should be responsible for their follow-up.
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Member countries including Japan organized many activities to contribute to UNFF discussions and resolutions, however complex and bureaucratic procedures to register them as UNFF Country-led initiative (CLI) should be improved not to decrease countries' motivation. We recognize that ad hoc expert groups (AHEG) discussed necessary themes requested for each UNFF resolution and produced fruitful outcomes in each session, meanwhile it is very sorry that the outcomes of AHEGs seem not to be taken into account properly during UNFF sessions.
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: No comment.
B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: For the International Year of Forests (IYF), Japan hosted the kickoff event of IYF with attendance of Director of UNFF Secretariat in Ishikawa prefecture. We also held various publicity campaigns through newspapers, TV programs, forums, field events and so on to raise awareness of people for promoting measures on Forest and Forestry Revitalization in Japan and SFM worldwide, in collaboration with private sector as well as the National Movement on

Fostering Beautiful Forests. Through the campaigns, we could enhance the people's awareness to the importance of forest for sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable use. Japan recognizes that continuous campaign to raise people's awareness in Japan is important.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: In view of the context that the discussions and decisions made by UNFF have not accelerated the SFM of Member States, UNFF should introduce and share the activities of CPF member organization such as ITTO and FAO, and existing international organization related to forest such as C&I process, in order to improve member countries' accessibility to information and resources, and should take a role of a platform to activate their activities by promoting the network of the organizations to each other.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☐	☒

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Same as C.2

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: It seems that if member countries implement the forest instrument faithfully, it will contribute the implementation of forest-related international conventions.
Developed countries seem to have no difficulties on implementing "V. National policy and measures", while developing countries might have difficulties on implementing "V. National policy and measures" and developed countries which support developing countries, also have difficulties on implementing "VI. International cooperation and means of implementation".
"V. National policy and measures" of developing countries therefore, needs to be facilitated by promoting international cooperation with the resolution of funding problem.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Realizing SFM by implementing the forest instrument is important especially in accomplishing the GOF2 (reinforcement of economic/social/environmental benefits arising from forest). In this regard, the potential of the contribution of forest should be inputted to be considered in the discussions leading up to post-2015 development agenda and SDGs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: The current structure and resources both of human and finance will be adequate to take roles described in B. 3, B. 4, C. 2, C. 4, especially one as a platform that UNFF should play.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Same as described in the answers B. 3, B. 4, C. 2, C. 4.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: CPF was organized based on the ECOSOC resolution 200/35 to support the work of UNFF, so a basis should be given to say that UNFF is a CPF member and its secretariat.
The roles expected for UNFF are as described in B. 3, B. 4, C. 2, C. 4, and UNFF secretariat should work effectively and efficiently to play those roles.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: As the discussions and decisions made by UNFF have not accelerated the SFM of Member States, it seems that the CPF and its member organizations confuse in finding how to support UNFF and activities related to discussions and decisions of UNFF. As for the implementation of UNFF decisions, Japan does not think that CPF member organizations are making positive efforts bearing in mind the UNFF decisions outside of UNFF session.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: In the first place, it is not appropriate to expect too much from the role of the CPF and its member organizations. To maximize the contribution from the CPF and its member organizations, clarification the short-term role of UNFF, identification the activities that are indispensable but cannot be implemented by UNFF alone, discussion and decide how the CPF and its member organizations can fulfill in these activities in each governing body, and asking CPF and its member organization to report those result, they might work as a solution.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Several mechanisms that contribute to SFM such as ITTO, FCPF, UN-REDD and GEF, are already existed. If a Global Forest Fund was established, contribution to the Fund would cause reduction of the current ODA budget in forestry. This therefore, leads to fragmentation of the financial resources and duplication of activity so that it is inefficient.
ITTO which is facing the problem of the decrease in the voluntary contribution received simultaneously projects and activities to be implemented in the recent years. Before considering GFF, we need to analyze causes of this ITTO financial problems first and find a new method of administration which could attract new donors including private sector. To this end, it is essential for SFM implementation agency like ITTO to present the impact of its result of activities and projects to the donor straightforwardly.
It is also important for GEF to continue supporting in forestry sector.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: As stated in F.1, it is very important that CPF member organizations which have means of implementation for SFM with financial mechanisms, establish and implement strategies for fund raising. The role that UNFF should play in finance for SFM is described in B.3, C.2 and C.4.

Japan 6

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
UNITED NATIONS-NEW YORK

E/10/1494

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, and in reference to the latter's letter No UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16 July 2013 regarding the invitation to participate at the First Facilitative Process workshop on the International Arrangement on forests (IAF) that will be held in Austria during 22-23 October 2013, the Mission has the honor to inform the esteemed Secretariat of the nomination of Mr. Muhammad Aldaghesh to participate at the above mentioned workshop (attached herewith is the format for soliciting views and proposals on the International Arrangement on forests).

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 4 September 2013

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
1 UN Plaza, DC1-1245
New York, NY 10017
Fax: 19173673186
Email: unff@un.org

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Agriculture

Name of official submitting the views: Muhammad Ahmed Ali Aldaghesh

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF
A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF: ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF ☐ Continuation of the current IAF ☐ Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF
B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Not sufficient, since the biennial sessions need to be longer.
B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: founding legal bodies to connect various agencies in different countries interested in forests and facilitate the exchaange of experience between different parts interested in forests.
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF should be constructed to have a central organization with many smaller organizing offices on the international, regional and national levels with regular sessions between countries delegates and other agencies interested in forets.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Upon proper finance and institutional organization. UNFF should be capabable of achieving objectives related to forestry properly.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: They faciliatate the exchange of knowledge between different countries in issues related to forestry.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: The engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF is highly important, in order to incorporate wide sectors in planning and managing forestry activities.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: These activities is highly important in raising the awarnessas well as political and public commitment for forests.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Increase the awarness of the goals and detailed activities prcticed to achieve these goals,

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☒	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Agencies responsible of organizing activities related to forestry facilitate the communication between interested bodies in forestry. Which in turn facilitate such activities and increase the awarness of agencies active in the field of

forestry

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: They contribute in improving the activities set to promote the forest worldwide which should mitigate the effects of environmental changes and improve livelihood of rural communities.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation: We don't have enough information on this issue.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Beside a strong central office, several offices in member countries should be founded to facilitate the activities related to forestry.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Beside political commitment, branches of the secretariat in various countries should be founded and focal points of the member countries should be assaigned.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: They facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience between different countries.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: By creating good commnication between agencies interested in forestry and funding agencies intereseted in improving forestry.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Mechanism to fund the activities related to forestry is of major relevance to improve the forestry sector.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: 1. Set goals according to priorities. 2. Create a continuous and sustainable source of fund. 3. Good communication between funding agencies and institutions interested in forestry. 4. Increase the awarness of the role of forests ; environmentally, socially and economically.

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)
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Kfjohnson97@yahoo.com

Office of the Assistant Managing Director

REF: FDA/AMD/040/010-13

October 30, 2013

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2300,
New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Director General:

The Management of Forestry Development Authority (FDA) extends complement and wish to officially send the the attached original copy of the completed format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Kind regards

Sincerely yours

Kederick F. Johnson
Acting Managing Director

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Forestry Development Authority

Name of official submitting the views: Edward S. Kamara

Address: Forestry Development Authority

Phone/Fax: +231 886 823 646

E-mail: easkamara56@ymail.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) -

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The UNFF approach to ensuring that member counties and partners are involved in decisions partaining to the core functions is a measure of success of the Forum.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

UNFF has emcouraged a continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21. The UNFF is also striving to bring together member countries and partners to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner,

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:
The future options on the "Legally Binding Instrument on all types of Forest" for the UNFF is one of the best solution for the future of Sustainable Forest Management in the world

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:
Enhancing of cooperation and coordination on forest related policy amongst member countries and partners. It is also development guiding tool for enhancing cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments..

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:
The Country-Led Initiative are important taking success story and lessons learned from the implemetation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests pilot project in my county.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:
The engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF is at an appreciable level. However, the UNFF needs to provide adequate support to member states with vast forest cover and even with those possessing less portion of forest cover.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:
The International Year of Forests and International Day of Forests are providing an impact through awareness and also encouraging the policy makers to understand the important of forest in the national development agenda, improving livelihood opportunities of the forest dwelling communities.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- [x] Adequate
- [ ] Inadequate
- [ ] Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
The progress can be improved by constituting a trained SFM Team in each member state and assign them with tasks that can be monitored, evaluated and reported upon on a quarterly or biannual basis.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Eventhough there are legal and policy framework put in place to ensure sustainable forest management and achieve Global Objectives on Forests, the financial support to the implementation of these policies is slow from all levels. The provision of technical and financial assistance is the best way possible.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

. It has offered adequate education to many forest dwellers and strengthened collaborative working relationship between indigenous people and the state on sustainable Forest management and knowledge sharing.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The forest instrument and the GOFS can contribute to the post 2015 UN development through the provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods, community empowerment through community structure development and strengthening; constant sensitization, education and awareness raising on sustainable Forest Management.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

The funding provided for participants to attend some of the Forum workshops , seminars and conferences is not adeguate to facilitate the traveling and it becomes difficult for participants from countries in transitions to easily get access to fund to participate. . There is also need for the UN Secretariat to include two (2) participants from each member states to be represented at each call meeting. Meaning that one civil society organization personnel and one government representative should be invited to sit within each meeting.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

The member states and the financial groups should increase the budget of the UNFF Secretariat to improve the coordination. Moreover, Civil society organization personnel should be included to reflect equal and full representation of all groups (the state and indigenous people).

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Provision of tehnical and financial assistance to the Forum Secretariat.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

It might not be sufficient enough due to the short falls in the working of the UNFF. CPF has also helped to foster strong partnership between individual member organizations. In addition, two or more organizations have joined together to explore common ground and strengthen their impacts at the field level (Example: The UN-REDD Partnership);

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Is to continue dialogue and sharing of information through meetings. To educate forest dependents on the importance of promoting sustainable Forest Management, finding sustainable alternative livelihoods and empowering them through setting aside community forest for them to manage and own.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

Seek United Nation Security mandate to ensure that all member countries make a minimum contribution from their national budget to the financing .

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Continuous dialogue and meetings with member states through the UN mandate.

REPOBLIKAN'I MADAGASIKARA
Fitiavana - Tanindrazana - Fandrosoana

Antananarivo, le 29 OCT 2013

Le Secrétaire Général

à

N° 584 /13/MEF/SG

Madame Le Directeur du Secrétariat du FNUF
(Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts)

Objet : UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests.
Format for solliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat July 2013.

Madame Le Directeur,

Dans le cadre des activités intersession de l'UNFF sur l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint en fichier attaché, le questionnaire rempli cité en objet.

Comptant sur votre collaboration

Veuillez croire, Madame Le Directeur, en l'expression de mes salutations distinguées.

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES FORETS
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

M. Mampionirina RAKOTOARISOA
Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts
D.E.A. Sciences Agroforestières

BP : 3948 Rue Toto RADOLA- Antsahavola Antananarivo 101
Mail: sg@mef.gov.mg website : http :// www.mef.gov.mg

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the international Arrangement on Forests (IAF) July2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Environment and Forests

Name of official submitting the views: RAHARIMANIRAKA Lydie Norohanta

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Phone/Fax: +261324009504

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Section A: Full options for the IAF
A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF: D A legally binding instrument on all types of forests DX Strengthening of the current IAF D Continuation of the current IAF D Other options (please describe) IAF has a crucial role at UNFF

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on F rests(UNFF) and its processes since 2000, all the future options for UNFF
B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biannual sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The UNFF structure has to be sufficient if the information at all types of forests and at all levels are complete in its structure

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The UNFF promotes the sustainable management of all types of forests, promotes the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at global, regional levels, provides the forum for continued policy development among Governments, international organizations to foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management, fosters international cooperation including North-north and public-private partnerships as well as cross-sectorial cooperation at regional and global levels, enhances the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals as MDGs, the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, assists countries to maintain and Improve their forest resources.
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: The UNFF must maintain its position in regards of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post 2015 UN development goals.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The UNFF assess regularly the progress towards implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and in particular the achievement of the four global objectives on forests (GOFs).

8.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of theUNFF:

Country-Led Initiative and ad'hoc expert groups give their expertise and their suggestions to allow the work of the UNFF be facilitated in terms of scientific and technical arguments.

8.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

The major groups share their point of view which aren't always the ones of ad'hoc expert groups because they consider social and cultural consideration for example.

8.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

The two events reinforce the importance of the commitment of all stakeholders including the international community, the regional organizations and the national authorities.

Section C: Tlie Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and tb.e four Global Objectives on ForestS (GOFs)

C.▮ Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

DX Adequate

D Inadequate

D Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

All the sources of financing should be found to implement all these forest instrument and the four GOFs. The sensitization must be improved in all countries in particular in the African countries, developing countries.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOFI :	X		
GOFI :	X		
GOF3 :	X		
GOF4 :	X		

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Mobilisation and activities toward all actions in achieving the four GOFs should be achieved in all types of forests

4

Madagascar 4

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

As the implementation of the forest instrument takes place after an international consensus it has contributed of forest related international convention.

C.6 Please descrj.l;le how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The goals are similar because all contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and SDGs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat .

D.!Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

DX Adequate
D Inadequate
D Not sure

Additional explanation:
The expertise is there but the financial resources aren't sufficient to achieve their mandate

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:
The effectiveness of the IAF and the fulfillment of the road map are among the strength of the Secretariat of UNFF

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat,should be strengthened:

The role of facilitator needs to be reinforced as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.!Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF

CPF and CPF member organizations should take other role which facilitate the work of the UNFF.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

The mandate of CPF and its member organizations are various and crucial also and it must need more financial resources.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.! Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: 6

Madagascar 6

Call for the creation of a **landscape restoration fund** at the national level based on an innovative mechanism that would use taxes on transport , tourism and extractive industries as a source of replenishment.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Facilitate the exchange of experiences in forest financing Ensure long-term sustainability of forest financing at the national level, regional level and further at international level Be devised for integration and streamlining into national development plans and strategies Include the development of an enabling environment for the private sector. Identify the macro level economic growth strategies and consider forestry as one of the priority sectors of the economy

Madagascar 7

HA 56/13

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) and with reference to the latter's letters Ref: UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 (16 July 2013) and Ref: UNFF-13-HMM-L-284 (25 October 2013), has the honour to submit herewith (as attached) Malaysia's submission of views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests (IAF) as requested by the eleventh bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia, further has the honour to inform UNFFS that similar submission has been transmitted to the UNFFS via email on 5 December 2013.

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 5 December 2013

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS)
New York, NY 10017

PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS * NEW YORK *

CANDIDATE
to the
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
for the term 2015-2016

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Name of official submitting the views: MDM. WAN HASMAH WAN MOHD

Address: Biodiversity and Forestry Management Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Level 12, Wisma Sumber Asli, No. 25, Persiaran Perdana, Precint 4, 62574, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Phone/Fax: +603-8886 1442

E-mail: +6038888 4504

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The current UNFF structure and the biennial sessions are sufficient to fulfill its' functions and obligations. However, Malaysia would like to propose that the current mechanism and activities should be strengthened to ensure that the objective of its establishment can be achieved.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

Since its establishment, UNFF as the only dedicated global forum related to forests has shown a moderate performance. The established AHEGs as mechanism to enable member states to

give views is good and satisfactory even though it is sometimes difficult to come out with a common position.

UNFF has recorded success in enhancing public awareness on forests through the organisation of International Year of Forests (IYF) in 2011 and by declaring 21 March as International Day of Forest.

On the overall achievement of Millennium Development Goals, the performance is partially achieved (Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability). This is due to lack of direct supports from UNFF to Member States especially on capacity building and financial. Member States took their own initiatives to implement global objectives of forests which contributed to the achievements MDGs. Even though some Member States received supports from CPFs, the support is not sufficient to fully achieve the ultimate objectives.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

Malaysia believes that there are only two options on the future of UNFF, legally binding or continue with NLBI with a more strenghthened IAF.

If it is going to be a legally binding instrument, the action towards estalishment of a dedicated global forest fund can easily be activated. Internally, UNFF should also initiate and come out with an innovative funding mechanism to enable every Member State to acquire enough fund to manage their forest resource sustainably.

A new look of UNFF should be established with a clearer Terms of Reference with a support of strong funding mechanism to enable it to implement of any decided policy or objective. If it is decided that the current IAF to be continued, all the initiative will remain voluntary and the achievement of GOF will affected. The situation is going to be rather serious as a result of no dedicated funding to achieve all GOFs. UNFF should strengthen the financing mechanism and subsequently establish effective mechanism to distribute/disburse the allocation of funding accordingly, to expediate the implementation of SFM. UNFF should also play significant roles in mobilizing funds, including sourcing for potential donors to support the activities and initiatives of SFM.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

UNFF should play important role in supporting all Member States in:
- implementing SFM,
- maintaining Forest health,
- minimizing forest degradation,
- improving biological diversity conservation,
- dealing climate change issues, especially on roles of forests in mitigation and adaptation,
- improving sosio economy & livelihood of local and forest dependent communities,

- promoting potentials of forest good and services for future wealth creation, and
- enhancing forest ecosystem services and functions.

It is also proposed that all forest related issues has to be brought to the informal negotiation by the Open Ended Working Group on SDG.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

AHEG should be more focus in determining issues. The identified issues has to be discussed in detail and with the involvement of all representatives from all member states.

Whereas, CLI should be more consistent and focus in their role in the implementation of its' activities, with sufficient financial assistance from UNFF Secretariat. It is also suggested that CLI should be more focussed on matter related capacity building.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

It is proposed that UNFF should maintain and continue with the current engagement, but has to enhance the involvement of trade group. The major group should also be more supportive and action oriented on environmental conservation and in the implementation of SFM initiatives. It is also proposed that the disabled groups be included in the engagement.

To ensure a more effective future engagement, it is necessary to facilitate an effective communication to minimise lingual barrier, NGOs should consider and be responsible on the national sovereignty rights and interest and major groups should be supportive and action oriented on environmental conservation and SFM initiatives.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

IYF has created a higher awareness at all levels including policy makers, corporate and public. In addition the celebration of International Day of Forest on 21st March every year has significant impacts on the awareness at all levels. These programmes should be implemented continuously with the contribution and involvement of all parties including the private or trade sectors.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Financial, Technlogy know-how and capacity building need to be further improved. A more proactive and committed role by CPF member is also required to support member states in achieving global objectives of forest.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

GOF4 : Require more funding as implementing SFM is not cheap. The urgent need to establish Global Forest Fund. Member States should also establish an effective mechanism to mobilize external and internal financial assistance from all sources to support the implementation of SFM

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

Forests play an important role in the maintenance of climatic and environmental stability, conservation of the invaluable biodiversity and in the supply of clean water resources in line with efforts towards achieving the Global Objectives on Forests as well as the Millennium Development Goals to ensure environmental sustainability. The Implementation of forest related international conventions (eg: CBD, CITES, ITTA, and etc) support the implementation of forest instrument.

Deliberations on new international arrangement on forest require further reflection on the achievements of the current arrangement. Since its inception as international arrangement on forest in 2000, the UNFF has been actively formulating and promoting various forest-related policies and framework to achieve not only the global objectives on forest, but also internationally agreed development goals. With the proliferation of various Multilateral

Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which look into multi-disciplinary component of forest, the cross-cutting issue of forestry have been deeply fragmented, with resources stretched and countries burdened with various commitments and obligations.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

There is a need to be a legally binding in order to monitor the implementation using monitoring mechanism and to ensure a sufficient fund is made available. There is also a need to formulate verifiers to assess the overall achievements of the SDGs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: Insufficient enough especially in mobilizing forest fund and capacity building.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

1. Provide adequate and sustainable trust fund
2. Those servicing the Secretariat should be well represented to ensure concerns and welfare of each region are addressed and considered.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

The current approach in providing support to member states appears to prioritize specific agenda to fulfill objectives and goals of CPF Members. There is a need to streamlining of priorities by the CPF in terms of programs and fund dissemination. This will encourage the inclusion of more comprehensive range of disciplines of forestry. It is therefore, the Secretariat has to work closely with other CPF members and to avoid duplication of works and to create a smart partnership with them in maximizing available resources and benefits.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

There is a need for the forum to identify and establish its niche which is not duplicative of the work of other organizations. It is concerned that the proliferation of organizations will necessitate further sharing of scarce resources and will divert focus away from key areas for implementation. It is recognized that there is a need for a collective effort to avoid fragmentation of resources and capacity in addressing forestry related issues.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

To identify new area of collaboration for CPF and its member organizations (eg: establish new network with G8 and G77+China, APEC, etc) and identify new sources of funding as a result from the establishment of the networking. CPF members can also play important roles in implementing project that involves a smaller group of member states with similar forest type and sharing similar management problems.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

One of the pertinent issues in the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) particularly in developing countries are insufficient financial resources and lack of environmentally sound technologies. Due to the immense cost involved, it is believes that financing of SFM cannot be discussed within the context of national boundaries alone. There is an urgent need to mobilize increased, new and additional financial resources to enhance capacity development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in order to support efforts in implementing SFM that contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. It is strongly supported that the proposal to establish the voluntary Global Forest Fund (GFF) for SFM.

As for the future, international community should also consider the application of International Green Premium, Green Taxes and REDD+ financial incentives to producer countries to ensure good and sustainable management of their forest resources. Internally, the mechanism such as PES, REDD+, Carbon offset, and etc should also be encouraged.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Create and establish innovative mechanism with the involvements of other sectors such as transport, energy, oil & gas, agriculture, electronic, telecomunications, and other sectors to work together in providing and sharing of financial resources.

Malaysia 8

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DE L'ASSAINISSEMENT

DIRECTION NATIONALE
DES EAUX ET FORETS

REPUBLIQUE DU MALI
Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi

Bamako, le 05 DEC 2013

Le Directeur National des Eaux et Forêts

A

Madame la Secrétaire Générale du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts (UNFF)
New York – USA

N° 474 /MEA-DNEF

Objet *: Formulaire de Point de Vue sur l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts*

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir le formulaire cité en objet et rempli par nos soins. Je vous signale qu'à l'avenir, il faudra songer à traduire le formulaire en français pour nous faciliter son remplissage.

Tout en vous présentant nos excuses pour le léger retard accusé dans l'envoi, je vous prie d'agréer Madame, l'expression de ma franche collaboration.

Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement
Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts
Le Directeur National

Alassane Boncana MAIGA
Chevalier de l'Ordre National

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE L'ASSAINISSEMENT

Name of official submitting the views: Tidiani COULIBALY

Address: DIRECTION NATIONALE DES EAUX ET FORETS, B.P.275, BAMAKO-MALI

Phone/Fax: +223 76424908 / +223 66768335

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) Un instrument legal aura l'avantage d'engager politiquement les différents Etats membres, particulièrement les pays à faible couvert forestier -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Oui, c'est suffisant à condition que toutes les parties prenantes soient totalement engagées et que l'instrument international soit rnforcé dans le sens d'une convention internationale

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49*: Le FNUF a su s'imposer comme un instrument necessaire à tous les Etats membres en vue d'atteindre les 4 objectifs majeurs assignés au FNUF

B3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Le FNUF gagnerait à évoluer vers une convention qui obligeral les Etats membres à integrer les différentes fonctions des forêts dans leurs politique et stratégie de devéloppement durable

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: - veiller à la prise en compte des avantages économiques, sociaux et écologiques des forêts dans les politiques et stratégies de devéloppement durable; - s'assurer de la contribution des forêts à la réalisation des objectifs du millénaire, notamment l'élimination de la pauvreté et la viabilité de l'environnement

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: - la facilitation de la recherche et de la mobilisation des ressources financières pour la gestion durable des forêts pour tous les types de forêts; - la facilitation du transfert de technologies respectueuse de l'environnement à travers la diffusion des cas de reussite; - le renforcement des valeurs économiques, sociales et écologiques de tous les types de forêts

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: - la sensibilisation de l'opinion nationale et internationale sur les valeurs économiques, sociales et écologiques des forêts et bsur le rôle forêts dans la lutte contre la pauvreté; - la mobilisation de tous les acteurs aurour des actions qui concourrent à la preservation et la mise en valeur durable des forêts

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐

GOF4: ☐ ☐ ☒
C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:
C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat
D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates: ☒ Adequate ☐ Inadequate ☐ Not sure Additional explanation:
D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:
D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: l'établissement d'un fonds mondial volontaire pour les forêts permettrai de mobiliser toutes les ressources de toutes les sources en faveur de la GDF de tous les types de forêts et de definir des critères d'aacés à ces fonds basés sur les différents valeurs des forêts
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: inviter les donateurs internationaux et bilateraux, les Etats membres à fournir les soutiens financiers necessaire à la gestion durable de tous les types de forêts.

MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

ONU00116

La Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas saluda atentamente al Secretariado del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques y tiene el honor de hacer referencia a los trabajos preparatorios de la próxima sesión del Foro.

Al respecto y en seguimiento a la solicitud contenida en la comunicación UNFF-13-HMM-L-284 del 25 de octubre de 2013, esta Misión Permanente se permite enviar el formato de solicitud de opinión y propuestas sobre el funcionamiento y alcance del Acuerdo Internacional sobre los Bosques, debidamente llenado por la Comisión Nacional Forestal de México.

La Misión Permanente de México ante las Naciones Unidas aprovecha la oportunidad para reiterar al Secretariado del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques, las seguridades de su más atenta y distinguida consideración.

Nueva York, a 13 de enero de 2014.

MISION PERMANENTE
DE MEXICO
ANTE LA ORGANIZACION
DE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS
NUEVA YORK, N. Y.

Secretariado del Foro
de las Naciones Unidas
sobre los Bosques
Nueva York

Two United Nations Plaza, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 752.0220 Fax: (212) 752.0634 http://mision.sre.gob.mx/onu/

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)

Name of official submitting the views:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: En términos generales, se considera que sí son sufucientes, aunque requieren fortalecerse, con una mayor participación de los países, principalmente, a través de una mayor participación en las diferentes actividades encaminadas a promover la adopción e implementación del Instrumento. Se reconoce que la Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques ha sido muy relevante para brindar orientación y asesoramiento a los países y al Foro, así como para promover la adopción e implementación del instrumento. El Foro, a través de todos sus actores, ha tenido un relevante rol en incrementar el reconocimiento de los bosques y el sector forestal en los ámbitos de planeación y políticas públicas a nivel nacional, principalmente, promoviendo y fortaleciendo la coordinación interinstitucional e intersectorial, la participación de los sectores privado y de la sociedad civil, impulsando la colaboración internacional y creando sinergias entre iniciativas, instituciones y programas en este mismo ámbito. Se considera que uno de los retos más relevantes que tiene el Foro, vinculado al financiamiento necesario para la implementación del Instrumento, es establecer las condiciones favorables para una mayor participación privada y de la sociedad civil.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: Éstos han sido los siguientes: (a) incrementar la conciencia a todos lo niveles y sectores interesados, en la relevancia del sector forestal y sus contribuciones tanto de tipo ambiental, como social y económica; (b) contribuir a integrar el sector forestal a la planeación nacional, a través de programas a mediano y largo plazo, de carácter estratégico y operativo; (c) apoyar en el fortalecimiento de los procesos de planeación, monitoreo y evaluación de programas y programas a nivel nacional, así como en la revisión periódica del progreso en el cumplimiento de los objetivos globales de bosques; (d)promover la colaboración intersectorial y una participación más amplia y activa de los diversos actores involucrados en la planeación e implementación de programas y proyectos relativos al sector forestal; (e) promover, facilitar y fortalecer el diálogo entre los países miembro en el análisis de temas emergentes, de interés regional y global en el sector forestal, en diversos ámbitos (ambiental, social y económico), así como también promover y fortalecer la colaboración interinstitucional a nivel internacional (Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques).

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Si bien para algunos países podría ser deseable negociar una Convención relativa a los bosques o al sector forestal, con el fin de establecer compromisos y acciones vinculantes, es previsible que la negociación de ésta será un proceso largo que podría desviar el esfuerzo de países, instituciones y agencias de la urgencia de realizar acciones en el sector. Sin duda habrá que fortalecer el trabajo del Foro se promueva el desarrollo de uno o más protocolos o programas, que trabajen de manera sinérgica con las Convenciones de Río y otros procesos multilaterales ambientales relevantes al sector forestal, para cumplir con el logro de los Objetivos Forestales Mundiales (GOFs) o de el o los ODS que se establezcan relativos al bosque. Su labor como facilitador del diálogo político, el ensayo de acciones, opciones y enfoques para promover el manejo forestal sustentable y el desarrollo de nuevas y adicionales fuentes de financiamiento, a través de la colaboración entre países y, especialmente, a través de la Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques, debe continuar impulsándose y mejorándose. Se considera que el fomento de la colaboración ha sido una de las acciones más relevantes y exitosas del Foro.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: El trabajo 'del Foro ha sido relevante, pero se require continuar fortaleciendo su labor para incrementar aún más el reconocimiento del sector forestal para contribuir al desarrollo social y económico de las comunidades y naciones y enfrentar los retos ambientales globales, lo cual se verá reflejado en el establecimiento de los objetivos de desarrollo sustentable (ODS) en el periodo post-2015. En este sentido es necesario que el trabajo del Foro continúe brindando orientación y asesoramiento en el proceso de la determinación de los ODS, así como también para apoyar la implementación de las acciones necesarias para su cumplimiento y establecer las medidas (incluyendo los indicadores) más adecuadas para el seguimiento de los avances en el logro de los mismos. Será necesario que en el seno del Foro se proponga el desarrollo de un protocolo para dar cumplimiento a dichos

ODS, una vez que éstos se hayan determinado.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Ambos han contribuido a desarrollar e intensificar el diálogo entre países, organizaciones y grupos interesados en la búsqueda de soluciones y el desarrollo de políticas forestales en varios niveles, contribuyendo a promover y fortalecer la colaboración entre éstos. Especialmente, su trabajo ha sido relevante en el análisis de temas emergentes de interés global, con el fin de brindar recomendaciones de política y para la implementación de proyectos y programas a varios niveles. Su labor será muy relevante en el análisis de las opciones para la determinación de los ODS/SDG, así como en el establecimiento de los indicadores y procedimientos / metodologías más adecuados para evaluar el progreso en su cumplimiento.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: En términos generales se considera que, si bien se ha incrementado sustancialmente el involucramiento de grupos principales en el trabajo de UNFF, éste todavía no ha sido tan efectivo o, al menos, existe poca evidencia para asegurar que sí lo haya sido.

En términos generales, los países han avanzado en la implementación de procesos de consulta e involucramiento de los grupos principales, con especial énfasis en las poblaciones indígenas, la mujer y grupos marginados, en los procesos de planeación e instrumentación de políticas y programas públicos. Sin embargo, esta actividad debe fortalecerse mediante la creación de capacidades de tales grupos, para que participen más eficazmente.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Ambas celebraciones han sido importantes para ayudar a incrementar el posicionamiento de los bosques para contribuir al bienestar general y al desarrollo social y económico de las comunidades locales y las naciones en general, además de destacar su importante contribución a la solución de problemas ambientales de índole global, como son el cambio climático, la pérdida de biodiversidad y la degradación de tierras. Es conveniente que se fortalezca la celebración del Día Internacional de los Bosques, como una forma de incrementar la atención y voluntad de la sociedad en general y de los gobiernos a todos los niveles, para dedicar mayor financiamiento en el largo plazo para llevar a cabo acciones de manejo, conservación y protección de los recursos forestales.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

☐ Adequate

☐ Inadequate
☒ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Es necesario establecer indicadores para poder monitorear y evaluar el progreso en la implementación del Instrumento Forestal y el logro de los Objetivos Mundiales sobre Bosques, así como establecer los procedimientos para el reporte periódico de avances, los cuales deben ser compatibles con otros esfuerzos similares, principalmente la Evaluación de los Recursos Forestales Mundiales, con el fin de evitar cargas adicionales de trabajo a los países.

Por otra parte, es necesario desarrollar un programa global y subprogramas regionales para fortalecer las capacidades de los países en la adopción e implementación del Instrumento, asegurando recursos financieros para su ejecución; asimismo, se requiere fortalecer y promover una participación más activa del sector de la sociedad civil y el sector privado para desarrollar fuentes adicionales e innovadoras de financiamiento; se requiere también desarrollar una estrategia de comunicación más agresiva dirigida a los tomadores de decisiones sobre los aspectos clave del sector forestal que contribuyen al desarrollo social y económico (economía verde) para incrementar su relevancia en las políticas públicas y se otorguen mayores presupuestos a largo plazo.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☐	☒
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☐	☒

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Se requiere incrementar la relevancia del sector forestal para contribuir al desarrollo social y económico (economías verdes) y enfrentar los retos ambientales a nivel global y local; se debe fortalecer la coordinación interinstitucional, especialmente con aquellos sectores que convergen en el ámbito rural y el uso de los recursos naturales, promoviendo la adopción de modelos de manejo a nivel de paisaje o territorios, donde convivan, de manera armonizada el manejo, protección y conservación de los bosques y otros usos del suelo; determinar la contribución económica de los bosques, a través de su manejo y conservación, para reducir la vulnerabilidad a los efectos del cambio climático y para el mantenimiento de los medios de vida de las poblaciones locales, así como los relativos a la provisión de bienes y servicios ambientales a la sociedad en general, también es importante para asegurar una mayor voluntad política y flujos de financiamiento adecuados y sustentables. Al igual que el caso anterior, debe promoverse una participación más activa de los sectores de la sociedad civil y privado para generar fuentes innovadoras y adicionales de financiamiento para el manejo, conservación y protección de los recursos forestales.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: En términos generales, esta contribución se refleja en un incremento del diálogo político entre las naciones, organizaciones y sectores relevantes para la búsqueda de soluciones de los problemas que enfrentan las convenciones de Río (cambio climático, biodiversidad y lucha contra la desertificación); asimismo, ha contribuido a fomentar la colaboración a varios niveles y tipos con el propósito de fortalecer las acciones de construcción de capacidades y él desarrollo de nuevos y adicionales flujos de financiamiento. Se ha reconocido ampliamente la multi-funcionalidad de los bosques y sus contribuciones para atender los aspectos relevantes de cada una de las convenciones, así como la posibilidad de crear acciones, programas y proyectos que, de manera sinérgica, atiendan a la vez problemáticas de las tres convenciones.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: En principio, los GOF y una evaluación del progreso en la consecución de los mismos, serán elementos fundamentales para orientar la discusión sobre el establecimiento del o los ODS relativos a los bosques y/o al sector forestal. Los GOF reflejan el carácter multifuncional del sector, así como el potencial para contribuir al cumplimiento de objetivos no sólo de carácter ambiental, sino de tipo social (equidad e inclusión, entre otros) y económico (combate a la pobreza y seguridad alimentaria, principalmente); asimismo, el proceso para reportar avances, tanto sobre la implementación del Instrumento como para el logro de los GOF, también serán muy relevantes para informar y orientar sobre el establecimiento de indicadores y los mecanismos para dar seguimiento en su avance.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation: Hasta ahora, no se tiene conocimiento de una evaluación de las funciones del Secretariado y de las posibles necesidades de recursos humanos, materiales, técnicos o financieros, así como tampoco sobre su desempeño en términos del cumplimiento de su mandato. Sin embargo, es previsible que exista insuficiencia de recursos en el Secretariado (humanos y financieros principalmente) para el cumplimiento adecuado de las funciones y mandato, debido a la diversidad de temas que convergen en el sector forestal a nivel mundial; de ahí la relevancia de la creación de sinergias y de una mayor y más fortalecida colaboración con las instituciones que integran la ACB/CPF.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Se considera que el Secretariado debe fortalecer su rol como facilitador para la creación de sinergias y alianzas estratégicas, con el apoyo de la Asociación de Colaboración en materia de Bosques, para impulsar el intercambio de experiencias y conocimientos que permitan incrementar las capacidades técnicas en los países en desarrollo principalmente, mejorar la planeación nacional, promover el desarrollo de entornos favorables para la inversión forestal y fortalecer la gobernanza a todos los niveles. Asimismo, se considera que debe fortalecer su rol para apoyar en el desarrollo de mecanismos de financiamiento nuevos y adicionales en los países miembro del Foro, así como también en el posicionamiento del sector forestal a nivel mundial y apoyar a que los países miembro también lo hagan a nivel nacional, para favorecer una mayor inversión pública en el sector forestal y se fortalezca la coordinación interinstitucional e intersectorial.
D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: El Secretariado del Foro tiene una función relevante para dar seguimiento a las actividades de la ACB/CPF, la sistematización de sus resultados y, más importante aún, en la traducción de los mismos en recomendaciones u orientaciones de política hacia los diferentes miembros del Foro, así como también a los distintos actores relevantes. Especialmente, se considera que la preparación y transmisión de mensajes clave y otros elementos de apoyo a la difusión y comunicación efectica, elaborados a partir del resultado del trabajo de la ACB/CPF, que contribuyan a incrementar el reconocimiento del sector entre los hacedores de políticas, es muy relevanteha y debe fortalecerse, especialmente en este momento donde se discuten los ODS/SDG. Asimismo, el Secretariado debe fortalecer su acercamiento con los responsables de las políticas públicas en el sector forestal, principalmente, para transmitir los mensajes clave, así como la importante labor del Foro y del Instrumento Forestal (NLBI).

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Ante la ausencia de indicadores, es complicado determinar cuál ha sido el impacto y suficiencia de las accionesde la ACB/CPF, sin embargo puede afirmarse que ésta ha contribuido a intensificar el diálogo a nivel internacional, así como a apoyar en los esfuerzos del Foro para promover el desarrollo de políticas nacionales, principalemente. Sin embargo, las organizaciones integradas a la ACB/CPF tienen mandatos muy específicos establecidos por sus órganos directivos y marcos de actuación, además de que cuentan con presupuesto limitado y/o etiquetado que les da poco margen de maniobra para atender satisfactoriamente a todas las recomendaciones y resoluciones del Foro. Ante este hecho, especialmente para los casos de las Convenciones, la FAO o la OIMT, donde coinciden miembros del Foro, es conveniente que éstos brinden orientaciones para el diseño e implementación de planes que consideren acciones convergentes y/o complementarias con las resoluciones y recomendaciones del Foro.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Siendo el Foro un espacio dedicado al análisis y diálogo de los temas relevantes al sector, la labor de la ACB/CPF es muy importante para brindar elementos para la orientación de las discusiones, con base en el resultado de sus respectivos trabajos, así como en la búsqueda de opciones para atender ciertas problemáticas o temas en específico. La orientación y sugerencia sobre las opciones de políticas y programas en el sector forestal, a partir del conocimiento, experiencias y lecciones aprendidas resultantes de la implementación de proyectos, a cualquier nivel, serán siempre de gran utilidad en este propósito. Sobre la forma en que pueden asegurarse los recursos para llevar a cabo las acciones, desafortunadamente no parece haber más opciones que recurrir a las contribuciones voluntarias, del mayor número de fuentes posibles, ya sean gobiernos, fundaciones, fondos ambientales, etc.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: En virtud de que el financiamiento disponible atiende parcialmente las necesidades para promover el manejo forestal sustentable y la implementación del Instrumento Jurídicamente No Vinculante, no es de extrañarse que continúe la discusión sobre la creación de un nuevo mecanismo financiero voluntario global para promover el manejo forestal sustentable para incrementar la disponibilidad de recursos financieros de una forma sistemática y predecible; se considera que es poco probable que un solo instrumento o mecanismo de financiamiento sea suficiente para satisfacer completamente las necesidades para promover el manejo forestal sustentable y la implementación del Instrumento.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Debido a la naturaleza de los distintos instrumentos o mecanismos de financiamiento, es común que el tema de bosques constituya una de las potenciales ventanas de financiamiento, siendo poco probable que los diversos aspectos relacionados con el manejo forestal sustentable puedan ser financiados completamente por uno sólo de tales instrumentos o mecanismos, por lo que es importante impulsar la sinergia entre aquéllos mecanismos de financiamiento orientados a enfrentar el cambio climático, la conservación de la biodiversidad y la lucha contra la degradación de la tierra, principalmente, para contar con el financiamiento suficiente para implementar efectivamente el manejo forestal sustentable. Asimismo, es importante explorar el potencial del sector privado, especialmente en los casos donde se involucre la producción de bienes forestales, así como de la sociedad civil, en el caso de los servicios ecosistémicos y la conservación principalmente. para desarrollar adicionales y nuevas fuentes de financiamiento. Por otra parte, se requiere que los países se fortalezcan en sus capacidades para incorporar el valor y contribución de los bosques y el sector forestal en las cuentas nacionales, a fin de incrementar el financiamiento público.

Mexico 9

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
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No. 12 /03 16 30

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and with reference to the latter's note no.UNFF-13-HMM-L-284 dated 25 October 2013 and UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 dated 16 July 2013, requesting to submit the views and proposals of Member States on the international arrangement on forests (IAF), has the honour to enclose herewith the views and proposals of Myanmar on IAF.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest considerations.

New York, 8 January 2014

The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations, New York
Fax: 917 367 3186

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Forest Department

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [x] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions are sufficient to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forest. But it is not sufficient to take necessary actions because it is non-legally binding so that implementation of UNFF's Resolution and guidance are rather weak. The situations call for legally binding forest instrumments.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: Adoption of the multi-year programme of work, strenghtening political commitment to the management, conservation and sustaiable development of all types of forests through ministrial engangement, encouraging and assisting countries to implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase forest area under sustainable forest management and reduce forest

degradation and all losss of forest cover,

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF should strengthen current of IAF and facilitate to develop a legally binding forest instruments on all types of forests

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF should be global leader in implementing MDG Goal 7 of Environmental Sustainability. UNFF should also be working as a leading role in MDG Goal 8 of Global Partnership of Development

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: REDD+, as country-led initiative, play very important role contributing to the sustainable management of forests. UNFF should emphasis more on development of REDD+ and finnancial mechanism.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: As major groups are representatives from various sectors, they have very strong voice for policy recommendations and advocay regarding with sustainable management of foresets.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Organizing the International Year of Foresets and the International Day of Forests are very powerful to promote the important role of forests in sustainable development of the country. However, sustantial inputs and efforts are still needed to lauch International Day of Forests for people who are residing in or near forests and rural areas. These events should not be limited only in urban areas and policy makers but also to rural areas as well.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:encourage to have policy commitment and greater awareness to all levels.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: resource mobilization, political commitment, engagement of personnels from non-forestry sectors.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Implementing forest instruments contribute to the biodiversity conservation (UNCBD), climate change mitigation (UNFCCC) and combating desertification (UNCCD) by strengthening sustainable forest management.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Forest instruments and the GOFs can contribute particularly MDG 1, MDG 7 and MDG 8 directly as well as indirectly.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

☐ Adequate
☐ Inadequate
☒ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: adequate resource mobilization is urgently needed.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: By facilitating to shift from non-legally binding forest instruments into legally binding forest instruments

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Implementation of resolutions and suporting works of UNFF is still weak as compared with the other Conventions such as UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: To ensure availability of necessary resources, CPF and its memebr organizations should persuade developed and OECD countries for regular contributions, create strong financial mechanism inviting development partners and private sectors, approaching memebrs States for their mandatory contributions.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Putting an agenda to create a voluntary Global Forest Fund and include it as a part of UNFF resolutions. It is better to launch advocating activities to all international organizations, member states and private sectors for their contributions.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: UNFF 11 should be initial step of creating forest financing and should develop concrete step with the advices and concensus of member states and organizations.

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

5 December 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached New Zealand's submission to the UNFF on the International Arrangement on Forests as requested by the Secretariat in July 2013. Our sincere apologies that we did not quite meet the deadline of 30 November.

Regards

Chris Carson
Director
Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand

New Zealand Submission to the UNFF on the International Arrangement on Forests (30 November 2013)

New Zealand welcomes the invitation to provide views to the UNFF as part of the UNFF's contribution to the review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). We see the review of the IAF, during intersessional processes and at the UNFF meeting in 2015, as an important opportunity to provide feedback on achievements to date and to guide international forest governance in a more consistent and effective direction that allows for achievement of the four global forestry objectives.

Responses to the questions posed by the UNFF Secretariat

The IAF

(A.1) Please select and explain preferred option for the IAF:

- *A legally binding instrument on all types of forests*
- *Strengthening the current IAF*
- *Continuation of the current IAF*
- *Other options*

In our view the International Arrangement on Forests should enable co-ordinated action and governance at international, regional and national levels, encourage consistency in the continuing refinement, understanding and application of Sustainable Forest Management, and encourage efficiency by avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts.

While we remain open to discussion on a possible legally binding instrument we also consider this a step member countries may be cautious about given past difficulties and previous attempts at negotiation. We think that before choosing this option we should consider carefully what a legally binding instrument for forests will provide over and above current best practice. We are also conscious of the investment of time and resources required for such a negotiation, and that once completed ratification takes even more time.

At this stage New Zealand does not have a preference for one option over any other. We prefer to wait until the appointed consultants have undertaken their work so as to have credible and solid information on which to base any preference. We are also conscious that the development of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda will have a bearing on which option is preferable for the future of forests. We are also interested in a discussion about the inter-linkages and relationship between any future international forestry regime and the REDD+ mechanisms that have been established in the UNFCCC.

The UNFF

(B.1) Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

We consider that the biennial sessions of the forum, combined with intersessional activities like ad-hoc expert groups, have provided a practical timeframe for UNFF meetings to date. We think the structure of the UNFF and its role providing policy advice can be improved, and there are opportunities to learn (without duplicating efforts) from the way in which other international environmental organisations are structured and have gone about their business.

Overall, we find that development of policy advice in the UNFF is divorced from the practical realities of sustainable forest management on the ground. For example, currently there is little scientific or technical input into policy advice developed by the UNFF. And while major groups attend the UNFF and have a chance to speak and interact with delegates, their insights and advice stand outside the deliberations of the working groups. Nor is there much sense of how the concerns of either different regions or different forest types impact on the nature of the policy advice that is produced.

The operation of the UNFF sessions could be improved by providing draft decisions on key recommendations prior to meetings to enable delegates to move ahead on more effectively on resolving key issues in the sessions.

We would recommend that agenda items, such as the multi-stakeholder dialogue (see further comment on the role of Major Groups), be given stronger emphasis and allocated more time in the sessions.

(B.2) Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49:

While the UNFF has undertaken a multi-year programme of work since the non-legally binding instrument on forests was agreed, we find it very difficult to isolate out the key achievements of the UNFF in relation to the principal functions stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49. In part this is due to the fragmented nature of international forestry governance – such that it is hard to ascribe particular outcomes to the actions of one organisation. We are aware of the extensive work that the UNFF has done in promoting forestry during the International Year of Forests and the work that it has undertaken (in conjunction with the FAO) on running pilot implementation projects on the non-legally binding agreement in some countries. But it is also clear that there are significant contributions to these outcomes from activities in relation to REDD-readiness in the climate change arena, and country level and regional level projects through the ITTO and FAO.

(B.3) Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

As noted above in our answer to question A1, New Zealand does not have a preference for any of the options proposed for the IAF and would prefer to wait until the appointed consultants have undertaken their work so as to have credible and solid information on

which to base any preference. Obviously the choice of preferred option for the IAF will have an impact and bearing on future options for the UNFF. That said, we consider that a priority for any future governance body is that it will be structured to effectively fulfil the objectives set for it.

(B.4) Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

The precise nature of the UN post-2015 development agenda and SDGs is yet to be decided, and given we do not know how forests will be reflected in these development goals we find it difficult to recommend a specific role for the UNFF in the process at this stage. The current mandate of the UNFF is to give forest policy advice. In that sense, it has a mandate (along with other international entities with responsibility for forests through the CPF) to provide advice on both the suitability and feasibility of a specific sustainable development goal for forests, and once the SDGs are agreed, providing advice on the key policy implications for global forest objectives in the post-2015 development agenda. Irrespective of how forests and forestry are dealt with in the SDGs we would see a key future role for the UNFF as the global forum for dialogue and direction on how forests and forestry continue to be integrated as a part of international development agendas.

(B.5) Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

We would firstly note that country led initiatives (CLI) and ad hoc expert groups (AHEG) have very different functions and roles in the context of the UNFF, and they should not be conflated together.

We consider CLIs a useful mechanism for the UNFF particularly in the context of the operational and financial difficulties that the UNFF has faced. They have allowed discussions on particular issues or topics to be advanced. The resulting papers/conclusions have provided useful insights. We are conscious that CLIs are a form of earmarked funding for particular projects and that this means that the most urgent or important issues are not necessarily addressed. Given the importance of the CLIs to advance work in the face of limited resources, we do have some concerns that the UNFF9 guidelines on CLIs have had a dampening effect.

Ad hoc expert groups (AHEG) have been well utilised in the UNFF to deal with the more difficult issues and to allow for more in-depth and robust discussion of these issues. New Zealand has actively participated in the AHEG on forest financing over recent years and will participate in the AHEG on the review of the IAF. They provide useful in-depth information (including through the contributions from NGOs, consultants and other interest and community organisations) and the reports produced are generally of high quality. If there is a weakness in the AHEG process it is that the work and the outputs of these AHEGs and the discussions they generate have not necessarily been effectively brought back into the UNFF session debates.

(B.6) Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions in their further engagement:

We consider the involvement of major groups an important part of the UNFF. New Zealand is concerned by the declining interest from some of the major groups in the work of the UNFF over a period of time, particularly the private sector. This was particularly noticeable at the last UNFF, where the theme was economic development. Major groups can play a key role and represent perspectives of important parts of society; therefore they should be encouraged to engage effectively with other UNFF members on forest issues. It would be useful to ascertain from the groups themselves the reasons they are not attending and related to that, what impact they believe their engagement has.

Consideration also needs to be given to how input by major groups and stakeholders is integrated into the UNFF sessions. For example, the panel discussion held at the last UNFF did not draw a large audience and came across as a side event rather than a serious input that would inform policy development.

(B.7) Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening the political and public commitment for forests:

The activities promoting forests for the International Year of Forests were useful in raising awareness about the importance of forests. It is difficult for New Zealand to assess the actual impact particularly in terms of either political or public commitment for forests. We have not seen any evaluation of the activities undertaken during the International Year of Forests and thus any evidence based assessment of the effect that these activities have. We are aware of the incidental reporting from individual countries that they found the activities helpful. Our perception is that the International Year of Forests has not made much difference to the how forests and their importance (or not) are considered within the UN system compared to other sectors or other issues. Going forward, we would emphasise the need to find ways to enduring political/public commitment for forests.

The NLBI and the GOFs

(C.1) Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument – adequate, inadequate or not sure.

It is unclear to New Zealand precisely how far we have come in implementing the forest instrument in its entirety either globally or nationally.

It would have been useful to have a more comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the NLBI at the global level in the papers of the last UNFF session, which summed up the country reports, but did not give a picture of whether the forest instrument is being implemented well overall or where there are gaps generally.

(C.2) Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

No comment.

(C.3) Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs — adequate, inadequate or not sure.

On the basis of other information, most notably the work of the FAO on the global forest resource assessment and material supplied by C&I processes, it would appear that we are making some progress towards achieving the Global Objectives on Forests contained in the forest instrument but not enough and certainly not enough given some of the challenges that are facing forests into the future.

(C.4) Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Achieving greater progress towards the Global Objectives on Forests has been the source of much discussion and debate at not just the UNFF but also at other international forestry meetings. We have available a wealth of decisions emanating from these bodies and a reasonable sense of what is necessary – land tenure reform and certainty, levelling the playing field in terms of economic incentives for different types of land use, eliminating illegal logging etc. And yet the evidence would suggest that we are either not making progress, or not making progress fast enough. It is one of the issues that needs to be considered as part of the independent evaluation of the IAF and underpins the discussion about the utility of a legally binding instrument for forests.

(C.5) Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

We are unable to provide this assessment. The overlapping and fragmented nature of the international forestry regime makes it difficult to isolate the implementation of the forest instrument from the implementation of other forest-related international conventions. For New Zealand, all of these instruments are consistent with current domestic policy settings for forests and forest related activities.

(C.6) Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

We think that making progress in sustainable management of forests will remain an important part of sustainable development efforts regardless of what is agreed for the SDGs and in post-2015 development agenda.

As noted under question B.4 the precise nature of the post-2015 development agenda is still under discussion. However given the importance of forests, their role in cross-sectoral approaches and contribution to development efforts more generally (for example including for food security, sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change mitigation/adaptation), the principles and goals set out in the NLBI will continue to be highly relevant to the future direction of sustainable development

The UNFF Secretariat

(D.1) Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfil its mandates – adequate, inadequate or not sure.

New Zealand considers that the financial and human resources of the Secretariat appear to be inadequate for it to carry out much of the work requested, including funds which may be required to support the inter-sessional work of the forum.

We would also note that Members have not had the benefit of detailed reports on the function and resources of the UNFF Secretariat during UNFF sessions despite requests for these reports. It has been therefore difficult for delegates to the UNFF (as opposed to New York based country representatives) to have a discussion on the resourcing of the Secretariat. Providing such reports to the forum, for example during inter-sessional times, would be useful to help member countries better understand key actions or constraints in the activities undertaken and make well informed decisions on the future needs of the UNFF Secretariat. In other organisations such as, for example, the ITTO there is a Committee on Finance and Administration that provides such oversight and allows for a conversation about priorities.

(D.2) Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

The need for future resourcing and strengthening of the UNFF Secretariat will likely be determined by the outcome of the review of the IAF over the next two years, and options for the future of the UNFF post-2015. Until we have a better indication of the direction for the UNFF as a result of this process and therefore the scope of the Secretariat's functions in the future, it is difficult to comment in great detail on how it can be strengthened.

As noted above, improved transparency and reporting of the budgeting and work planning processes of a future Secretariat, including allocation of trust fund resources will be an important component.

(D.3) Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

As noted above under D.1, more frequent and detailed reports on the role of the Secretariat, including in the running of the CPF, would be valuable. At this point we are not clear on the practical function of the UNFF Secretariat within the CPF, the exact activities undertaken in this capacity or resources allocated to certain activities. There is usually a report back of CPF activities at UNFF sessions and we are aware that the summary minutes of the CPF meetings are available on the CPF website (but are not notified to countries as such). However, this has not provided much insight. The actions of the CPF and its discussion can best be described as opaque.

The CPF and members

(E.1) Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of the UNFF since its inception:

It is not possible to respond to this question. As noted in D.3, what little reporting is available does not provide much insight. The slightly different mandates and priorities of each of the CPF members combined with the general lack of funding for forestry activities, would suggest that the CPF has had very little impact on supporting the work of the UNFF since its inception.

(E.2) Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

The idea of a collaborative partnership of all international organisations involved in forestry issues is a practical and sensible response to what is currently a fragmented international regime.

New Zealand has no comments to make at this time on how the CPF and its member organisations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF. The review on the international arrangement on forests has a mandate to discuss this matter. Obviously the choice of preferred option for the IAF will have an impact and bearing on the future and operations of the CPF.

Financing options and strategies

(F.1) Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

We acknowledge that there are currently gaps in financing for sustainable forest management, and the need for financial resources for implementation of SFM.

We do not support the creation of a voluntary global forest fund under the UNFF. This has been a strongly debated issue. Among other reasons, the UNFF is currently a non-legally binding policy agency and not set up for implementing a fund.

We maintain the view that financing forests under one fund or convention has not been feasible in the past - and there is nothing to suggest that a single fund would be any easier to create and sustain now at the international scale, especially given the constraints caused by a difficult global financial situation.

We consider that finding an effective means of boosting funding for SFM and implementing the NLBI will not be easy. "Corralling" forests under one fund or convention has always been elusive and we do not consider that a single fund would offer a simpler or more accessible source for the complex demands of SFM.

In our view the following consistent findings from ad-hoc expert group meetings are vital considerations in the discussion of a way forward for forest financing:

- more funding is required to implement SFM globally;
- there are a number of ways the policies agreed to by the UNFF can and have been funded and implemented by organisations and countries in the past;
- the main way SFM implementation has been financed to date has been via a "portfolio approach" i.e. a range of programmes and projects operated by CPF partners, overseas development assistance programmes, bilateral programmes other than ODA, and investment;

The future success of funding SFM will rely strongly on how well SFM concepts become a mainstream element of economic and political development and of community appreciation and thereby attract funds

(F.2) Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop financing options:

As noted there is no simple solution to funding. We consider that the dialogue at the UNFF ad hoc expert group meetings on forest finance generated very good progress in understanding how funding pathways could be sustained and enhanced. We emphasise that a single fund will not assist in enhancing and refining the funding pathways.

These discussions showed that the value of dialogue among key players in the various steps in funding SFM. These include recipients, donors, bankers, fund administrators and country institutions. We would strongly favour a continuation dialogue among these to identify and resolve the structural, political and technical issues that hamper the mobilisation of both existing and new funding for SFM.

Fraternité- Travail- Progrès

REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE LA SALUBRITE URBAINE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES EAUX ET FORETS

Niamey, le 02 DEC 2013

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

N 0 0595

N°_____/MESU/DD/SG/DGE/EF/DAF/R/RT A

Madame la Directrice du Secrétariat du Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts

Objet : Avis et propositions sur l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts

Madame la Directrice,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir ci-joint, le document portant avis et propositions du Niger sur l'Arrangement International sur les Forêts.

En vous souhaitant bonne réception, je vous prie de bien vouloir agréer mes salutations distinguées.

Ampliation
CAB/ME/SU/DD .....1 a.t.c

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development

Name of official submitting the views: HAMADOU MAMOUDOU

Address: General Director of Environment Water and Forestry

Phone/Fax: Tél: (227) 20 72 37 55

E-mail: tinni2013@yahoo.com; dgeef@intnet.ne

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: the current UNFF have to be reviewed so that the Forum Secretariat should have Regional representations in a way that it can better influence and provide orientation at different level of decision making.
The biennial session's of the Forum may be sufficient at a point, but it's may be complemented by Regional Sessions in the image of the forestry and wildlife Regional Commission of the FAO. Also to include in the biennial session the Ministries Segments for larger information for political decisions makers

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The implimentation of the Facilitative Process of sustanable forest management financing have strenghtening the visibility of the Forum in many countries. Also the studies carried out have shown the

differencies and disparities at regional level in term of financial access. The formulation of the Strategy for financing the Sustaniable Forests Managements in Low Forest Cover Countries and Small Island Developping States have also great importance for these countries.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: For the future, there is a need for a Legally Binding Instrument integrating all types of forests, with a Forest Fund open and accessible to all types of forest. The establishment of a dedicated fund for forests will reduce the fragmentation and dispersal of funds for forests at all levels

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The Forum could advocate for the definition of a specific objective for Forests and trees among the objectives of Sustainable Development.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The ad hoc expert groups offerts members States the opportunity for deeping their thinking; and the discussions on differrents subjectsareas allow the Forum to put toghether differrent profils for greater achivement.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests can contribute to increase the awareness and commitment of stakeholders, including policy makers by organizing information sessions and awareness (media Conferences , day of parliamentary information , ..) . For example, in Niger , as part of the festivities marking the International Year of Forests , a conference debate was held August 3, 2011 on the contribution of forest ecosystems to food security . The conference was attended by three Ministers , researchers, academics and civil socity particular

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: (i) improve the financial access of disponible fund for all countries (ii)reduction of the scattering of the sustaiable management of forest funds (iii) ceate a nother specific account for forests at the GEF(iv) continue the sensitization and creating awareness for stakaholders in particular political actors in the importances of trees and Forests, (v) help countries in the elaboration of theirs own national strategies on sustainable Forests management and forest financing,(vi) Define a specific objective for the forests in relation to the post 2015 objectifs for sustainable development. (vii) increase the transectorial collaborations.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: see above

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Through efficient and active participation of forests sectors in the international fora particularily at regional level. The Forum Secretariat can initiate and facilitate these meetings and fora to help and allow the forests sectors to be well prepared to the process and elaboration of the post 2015 agenda.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

☐ Adequate
☒ Inadequate
☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: the Forum Secretariat can be more efficient in it's missions if it have representatives at regional and sub- regional level and who are very active in sustanable forests management.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: See above
D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: The establishment of a Global Forest Fund can help reduce fragmentation of funding for the forestry sector. But this fund must be flexible , accessible and open to all types of forests and trees outside forests. However, the Forum should encourage States to adopt National Forest Fund and allocate a percentage of their National Investment Fund for the financing of Sustainable Forest Management
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: first define the main objectif dedicated to the forests in the Sustainable development objectives and organise a high level meeting regouping finances ministers and those in charge of forests.

ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Unitet Nations Forum on Forests

Your ref	Our ref	Date
	06/263-	10.12.2013

Norwegian submission - IAF

Reference is made to the letter from the UNFF director with an invitation to submit views on IAF. Please find enclosed the submission from Norway

Yours sincerely,

Frode Lyssandtræ
Deputy Director General

Silje Trollstøl
Senior Adviser

This document has been signed electronically and therefore it is not signed by hand

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Department of Forest- and Natural Resource Policy

Our officer
Silje Trollstøl
+47 22 24 92 72

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway

Name of official submitting the views: Silje Trollstøl

Address: p.o. box 8007 Dep, 0030 OSLO

Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☒ Other options (please describe) We do not want to elaborate on our prefences for the future, as they will depend on the ongoing review and on the development of other processes towards 2015.

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: UNFF has been positive as a policy forum of the UN. It has been valuable to have forests on the agenda at this level in the UN system. The development of the NLBI was important for providing policy advice, and for a common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management. The UNFF sessions preceeding the adoption of the NLBI has covered different issues as set out in the work programme.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The NLBI is the major achievement of the UNFF.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Reference is made to A1.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Reference is made to A1.
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: These groups have given input to the countries and provided discussion on certain items.
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: It is important that any international arrangement on forests is open and inclusive, and facilitates particpation of stakeholders, be it as major groups or as other types of stakeholder groups.
B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: The International Year of Forests gave an opportunity to show off the forest sector.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☐	☐
GOF3:	☐	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: We think this Question is premature. We will have to develop the goals before describing how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to these.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: In its present form, we do not see the need for strengthening the UNFF secretariat.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: The CPF has been a valuable partnership and an important part of the IAF, as a framework in its effort to enhance sustainable forest management

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

Norway 5

autoridad nacional del ambiente

Panamá, 2 de enero de 2014
AG-0043-2014

Señor
MAHENDRA JOSHI
Foro de Bosques de las Naciones Unidas
Oficial Encargado
En su despacho

Estimado Señor Joshi:

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a usted en atención a su nota UNFF/13/HMM/NV/289, fechada 30 de octubre de 2013, donde nos solicita la designación oficial de los expertos seleccionados a participar en la Primera Reunión del Grupo Interinstitucional de Expertos de Composición Abierta del Foro de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Bosques, relativa al Acuerdo Interinstitucional sobre los Bosques, a realizarse en Nairobi, Kenia del 24 al 28 de febrero de 2014, tengo a bien informarle que hemos designado a los Ingenieros Jorge Justavino y Félix Magallón para que participen en la Reunión antes mencionada.

Tomando en consideración lo expresado en la nota UNFF/13/HMM/NV/289, les solicitamos apoyo para sufragar los gastos de participación del Ingeniero Jorge Justavino en dicha reunión.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para presentarle las seguridades de mi más alta consideración y estima.

Atentamente,

autoridad nacional del ambiente
ADMINISTRACIÓN GENERAL
República de Panamá

SILVANO VERGARA V.
Ministro de Estado

SV/JD/FM/fm

C.C. Patricia Arias Cerjack-Directora General Encargada de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales

"Dejando huellas para un mejor ambiente"

Apartado 0843-01793, Balboa-Ancón, Panamá, República de Panamá

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: National Environmental Authority

Name of official submitting the views: Jorge Justavino Felix Magallón

Address: Albrook, Ancon, Building 804, Panama, Republic of Panama

Phone/Fax:

E-mail: fmagallon@anam.gob.pa jjustavino@anam.gob.pa

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: If we are thinking in be more functional, We think, sessions need be annual as UNFCC, and others Organization meeting. Many things are happening in forests and we need be informed and sharing information amongst countries.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: UNFF has a Forum with one chairperson and four vicechairperson. The UNFF has one Secretary with office in united Nation New York. Open to the participation of all countries. They meet every two years. The ma n achievement include the participation of all countries in the meetings, contribute to the Millennium goals throw the poverty erradication in the forests communities . Contribute to avoid the deforestation and to promote the protected areas forests

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Its necessary contribute more in the sustainable forest management throw the implementation of proyects with financial support. Financial support is maybe the key issue for keep the forest with local benefits to communities. Without this, sustainable management will be very hard to do it and deforestation, forest degradation by fires could continue .

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: UNFF will have post 2015 vey important roll because It work with Forest and Goverments and the contribution of the forest in the climate Change Mitigation actions , environmental services and other will increase. UNFF will need work closely with other organization as UNFCC, FAO, ITTO and others.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Contribution of the experts from each country to find out the actual work of the UNFF group situation, resulting in reliable information for the workgroup.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: if the contributions of major groups in the work of UNFF, is really efective and allows making guidelines on the issue of forests, this contribution is fully effective for us.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Both initiatives were and are very important to create awarenees and strenthening political and public commitment for forests. Many things are changing and peoples are changing about forests. We need have others initiatives like this, for example, "I support tropical forests, I'm donor for forests". The collected funds can contribute to reforestation and other activities.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐

GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: More finantial resources to do actions in the field as projects in reforestation, restauration, forest management and others.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: the forest instrument goverments began to work in his countries and share information between they in the Meeting of the UNFF. The convention did the posibility to participate delegates for all countries and to participate in workshop to share information and give information in important subjects to us.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: We think we need legal binding instrument to be more effective in the work of UNFF. The GOFs are now a days good and we need do the efforts to increase and get the total 4 GOFs.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: It need grow because today is smaller and need more budget, personnel, equipment to work in correct way.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: The same as the D.1 question.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Definetively, increased the budget.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: CPF are really good very important institutions with knowledge about forest and they were contribute all the time with good proposals and advice.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: All the CPF members had his own budget and can contribute but for especial subjects, UNFF shall provide the budget. It need be increase to the UNFF.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: This is very neccesary as maybe global efforts as people donors for the forest around the world. Maybe in the forest day we can collect fund in all the cities to contribute in the forest sustainable management.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: The same as F.1 question.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOREST AUTHORITY
NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE
HEAD-OFFICE - FRANGIPANI STREET , HOHOLA
P.O. BOX 5055, BOROKO,
NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA.
TELEPHONE: (675) 3277800
FACSIMILE : (675) 3254433

02nd December, 2013

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
UNFF Secretariat
One United Nations Plaza, DCI-1238-1260
New York, NY 10017

SUBJECT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S VIEW ON INTERNATIONAL ARRAGEMENT ON FOREST (IAF).

We thank you for the invitation extended to the government of PNG to air its views on the International Arrangement on Forest (IAF) for consideration during the first AHEG1 meeting, which is scheduled in February 2014.

Considering the importance of the agenda, we submit our views in the format that you have provided. Attached is the completed form.

We thank UNFF Secretariat for its continued effort in enabling sustainable management of all types of forests.

Yours sincerely,

.....
KANAWI POURU
Managing Director

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

Name of official submitting the views: Dr Ruth Turia

Address: PNG FOREST Authority, P.O Box 5055,Boroko,National Capital District

Phone/Fax: +675 3277874, +675 3254433

E-mail: rturia@pngfa.gov.pg

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF
A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF: ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF ☐ Continuation of the current IAF ☐ Other options (please describe) - _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF
B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: No, We suggest that there should be special advisory group in all areas of forest related issues to give better advice on specific policy issues in specific areas on a international level for member states to re-align their respective country policies to the international policies.
B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: no comments
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Future UNFF should be build with capacity to efficiently carry out its mandated task to meeting its objectives. We also suggest that the current voluntary country report should be made mendatory by UNFF and member states should submit report to UNFF biannually for assessment and consider actions for each

member states specific areas of improvement and enhancement in their forest programmes
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: An effective future framework for the governance of our world's forests is not possible without substantial involvement from the private sector. Similar statements can increasingly be heard at conferences concerning climate change, sustainable development, and forests. Funding schemes like the Green Climate Fund or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation should be sourced to implement forest related programmes to achieve Strategic Development Goals(SDG)
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: No comments
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: The major UNFF groups members at least visit certain UNFF member states to see and learn for themselves through the assessments of each member states voluntary report and report back to UNFF for specific actions to be taken in each member states on forest related programmes.
B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Activities undertaken during International year of Forest has sent a strong signal to wider community on the importance of forest,as such there is strong calls for enhancement of good forest law enforcement and governance for managing and utilizing forest with its products and services on SFM priciples

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)
C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument: ☐ Adequate ☐ Inadequate ☒ Not sure C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:The Non-Legally binding intrument should be region or sub-region specific for easier implementation due to different socio-economic situations in the respective regions and sub-regions
C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☐	☒
GOF2:	☐	☐	☒
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☐	☒

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
Strenghtening Partnerships and collaborations at the sub-regional level are therefore essential in ensuring that we make effective contributions resulting in positive impacts on the ground. One of the main strategies in this regard is to assist regional focal point for forests and trees, effectively coordinating with other donors, agencies, programmes and projects to avoid duplication of efforts and enhancing synergies, working towards deepening partnerships and collaborations. The Forests and Trees Team organizes and implements activities at both the national and regional levels in responding to the needs of the sub-region.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: No comments

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: No comments

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

☐ Adequate
☒ Inadequate
☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: Funding has always been a constraint to UNFF.There should be closer collaborations with Major donors and countries to partner with for funding support to UNFF to function effectively

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Same as D.1

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Through collaborative partnership aggreement so that each member is obliged to meet its obligation

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: No comments
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: No comments

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Major countries and donor partners should show and make commitments under specific agreements
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: International agreemnent with donor partners and countries so that the obliged obligations in funding commitments are met

PERÚ | Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Lima, November 5th, 2013

CARTA (DGM-DMA) Nº 7-10-N/15

Secretariat
United Nations Forum on Forests
New York, United States of America.-

Regarding the communication from Mr. Jan McAlpine, dated July 18th 2013, I kindly submit attached to this letter, Peru's response to the completed format with views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests.

This response has been coordinated with other relevant national sectors, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry for the Environment.

As you will note, there are some fields in the document which we were not be able to respond accordingly. We see this as a reason to further strengthen the relationship between our Government and the UNFF.

Sincerely,

REPÚBLICA DEL PERÚ · Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores · Dirección de Medio Ambiente

Rómulo ACURIO
Director de Medio Ambiente
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

Name of official submitting the views: Jose Pinto - Bazurco

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: We see that the current UNFF structure does not have the capacity to fulfill effectively the Forum´s mandate to provide necessary actions on issues related to all types of forests and at all levels, considering there are other multilateral processes that have higher hierarchy and also deal with forest related matters.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: We currently do not have this information.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Our inclination is towards strengthening the UNFF, through establishing clear goals towards achieving sustainable development of forests.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: It would be convenient that forests will be included in an SDG that deals with sustainable ecosystem management, considering that it should prove to be difficult to propose a specific SDG on forests.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: We do not have information about this, but these initiatives could lead to discussing emerging subjects on forests.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: In Peru, indigenous communities are very influential. We consider, nevertheless, that an affective participation of these groups is not guaranteed. Therefore, the mechanisms that establish their participation, including financing and efficient communication, could be revised, as to assure a true participative process.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: These events have not achieved to have a mayor impact in Peru. The reasons for this are that we have had a very complex, policy-related agenda, which has not allowed resource investment in adequate communication strategies that promote these events.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Promote the diffusion of information and capacity building through workshops, videoconferences or online courses.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☐	☒
GOF2:	☐	☐	☒
GOF3:	☐	☐	☒
GOF4:	☐	☐	☒

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Promote the diffusion of information and capacity building through workshops, videoconferences or online courses.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: We currently do not have this information.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: It will be difficult that forests have an own SDG, they could therefore be included in an SDG that deals with sustainable ecosystem management.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: We currently do not have this information.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: We currently do not have this information.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: We currently do not have this information.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: We currently do not have this information.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: It is important to establish the goals that are meant to be covered with this financing, that are not currently being covered by other multilateral mechanisms, such as the UNFCCC, the UNCCD, CBD and others. Once forest related subjects that can be disassociated from other multilateral processes are defined, financing mechanisms that could originate from public or private sources, could be established.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Define forest-related subjects that can be disassociated from other multilateral processes.

MISYON NG PILIPINAS SA MGA
NAGKAKAISANG BANSA

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

556 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
TEL NO. (212) 764-1300

No. 001733

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (Attn: Ms. Jan McAlpine, Secretariat Director of UNFF) and has the honor to convey herewith the views and proposals of the Philippines relative to the International Arrangement of Forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests the assurances of its highest consideration.

9 December 2013, New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines

Name of official submitting the views: RICARDO L. CALDERON

Address: FMB Bldg. Visayas Ave. Diliman, Quezon City, PHILIPPINES

Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select(with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- [x] A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- [ ] Strengthening of the current IAF
- [ ] Continuation of the current IAF
- [ ] Other options (please describe)

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:Yes, we consider the current structure and its biennial sessions sufficient to take necessary actions and provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The UNFF's performance can be described as good with key achievements as follows: a) Adoption of the NLBI to generate supports from various levels for SFM; b) Providing guidance to members of the CPF in the promotion of SFM; c) Soliciting the views of Major Groups in pursuing SFM.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: One option is to establish a legally binding treaty on forests and perhaps a forest convention. Another option could be to give UNFF a coordinating role within the international arrangement on forests and have legally binding agreements at the regional level.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Putting sustainable development at the core is one of the imperative transformational shifts identified by the High Level Panel for the post -2015 agenda. This means the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability should be integrated in order to slow the alarming pace of climate change and environmental degradation, which pose unprecedented threats to humanity. In this regard the UNFF should play a catalytic role in this integration process in generating suport from the other sectors in achieving the GOFs.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The role and impact of Country-Led Initiative and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF is important in that they generate multi-country views and intitiatives on how to proceed with the work of the UNFF. This takes into consideration national circumstances in promoting sustainable forest management.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF andprovide suggestions on their further engagement:The engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF is but a reflection of the forest policy-making process in the Philippines where we seek the views of NGOs, local forest communities, business and industry, scientific and technological Communities. This consultative approach ensures that actions in relation to the achievement of the GOFs are fair and balanced with respect to these forest stakeholders. Therefore, we support the engagement of the major groups in UNFF work by continuously soliciting their views and positions.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: The International Year of Forests and International Day of Forests play an important role in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progressinthe implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Progress can be improved if it is made legally binding.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: More engagement with the other sectors to address the drivers of deforestation.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: The forest instrument can provide the central framework on how to implement other forest-related international conventions. Conversely, the implementation of these forest -related international conventions contributes to the achievement of SFM through the forest instrument.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: The forest instrument can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and SDGs if member states are provided with adequate funding and technical support to achive the the GOFs, and if this is pursued through legally binding commitments.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: CPF members have different mandates which they pursue with various SFM related programs and projects in member states. However, without proper coordination among them, some of these activities are duplicated which may result in inefficiency and diminished impact.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Members of the CPF can allocate a fix percentage of its budget to support activities related to the Forum's work.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:A voluntary Global Forest Fund is only as good as the ability of its proponents to convince possible contributors to pour their resources therein. A transparent and credible accountability system should be a central element in its design. At the same time, the requirements to tap this fund among member countries should be results-based but the requirements to prove these results should not be cumbersome.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: One concrete step is to institutionalize the proper valuation of ecosystem services of forest resources that can serve as basis for establishing a global forest fund and national forest funds.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MUN/004/14 8 January 2014

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and, in reference to the latter's letter UNFF-13-L-IIMM-219 dated 16 July 2013, has the honour to forward to the latter the Government of the Republic of Korea's completed "format" related to stakeholders' views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: As stated

United Nations Forum
on Forests Secretariat
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Agreement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organizations: Korea Forest Service
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Section A: Full range of option for the IAF

A.1 Please select(with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☑ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe)

First of all, at the international level, a legally binding instrument on all types of forests will easily facilitate joint cooperation (both at regional and global level) in response to periodic forest-related issues, particularly for issues of transboundary concern, such as forest fire, diseases and insect pests, desertification (dust and sand storms). Second, through promoting an integral approach and enhancing cooperation on forest-related issues which are partially addressed in the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD, synergies on implementation and cooperation project as well as pooling of resources could be envisaged. Third, it can enhance the implementation of the Agenda 21, forest-related international conventions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). Furthermore, it will lead to the strengthening of national and international commitments related to conservation and development of global forests.

At the national level, enhancing the implementation of SFM, including recommendations of IPF/IFF discussed in the United Nations system, will eventually contribute to sustainable socio-economic development. It will help prioritize forest-related issues in the national policies and also enhance coordination and cooperation with other sectors, thereby improving the quality of forest management. It will also contribute to invigorating the domestic forestry sector and improving the public functions of forests through efficient forest management.

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests(UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and futures options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

The current UNFF structure consists of UNFF members, Secretariat and CPF members. Its

principle functions focus on the implementation of the four GOFs and seven thematic elements of SFM. Although the evaluation of the progress in the implementation is carried out biennially in accordance with the MYPOW (2007-2015), comprehensive assessment is difficult as the reporting by members is not mandatory. Also, ..s biennial sessions are insufficient to take necessary actions and to maintain coherency in providing policy advice and guidance on all issues.
B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/29: *The UNFF has called for international efforts from the forest sector on achieving the implementation of the recommendations by IPF/IFF, GOFs and MDGs. In accordance with the MYPOW, the Forum also provided a venue for discussion on the means of implementation such as finance, technology transfer, capacity building, as well as progress made towards addressing major forest-related issues. However, there are insufficient achievements in translating outcomes into action (promotion of action-oriented cooperation).*
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: *There is a lack of concrete means to enable effective implementation of the UNFF's principle roles and functions. With a non-legally binding instrument, it would be difficult to push for the fulfillment of political commitments and to provide the means of implementation (securing resources for SFM, capacity building and technology transfer). It is necessary to transform and develop the Forum into a stronger international organization which is capable of bringing action-oriented cooperation. It would be ideal if the Forum could be given a mandate to become a powerful overarching (lead) organization/Convention dealing with all forest-related issues which are now dealt partially by the Rio Conventions within their respective mandate.*
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: *At this stage, it is imperative to raise the international profile of forest-related issues, especially the importance and need for the achievement of GOFs and SFM. Details and elements may change once the development of the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs is finalized, but it is still necessary to facilitate international efforts on eradicating poverty through SFM.*
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: *Country-Led Initiatives contribute to achieving the four GOFs and ad hoc expert groups were effective in discussing the pending issues and the work of the UNFF. In particular, they reported to the Forum the outcomes of their meetings which were held during the intersessions. This contributed to the efficient running of the Forum's sessional meetings. Furthermore, Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups also played the key role in sharing and disseminating the necessary information to the members while providing expert recommendations.*
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

The UNFF meetings were participated by its members and major international organizations. In order for the UNFF to gain a higher international profile and to promote participation from various stakeholders and observers, further engagement of major groups (such as NGOs) is needed.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

In case of the Republic of Korea, various outreach programmes and activities were carried out to celebrate the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests to promote further awareness-raising of the general public on the importance of forests. This has contributed to the strengthening and expansion of the foundation for policy implementation on forests and forestry at the domestic level.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests(Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☑ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

In order to secure political commitment on the implementation of the forest instrument, high-level commitment and participation on forest-related issues are needed. Mandatory means of implementation and guiding principles to enable the monitoring, evaluation (assessment) and feedback of national objectives for the forest instrument and GOFs are also necessary.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☐	☑
GOF2:	☐	☐	☑
GOF3:	☐	☐	☑
GOF4:	☐	☐	☑

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Most fundamentally, the means of implementation for the achievement of the GOFs are necessary. Concrete and detailed guidelines for the reporting of the progress in the implementation of the GOFs are also needed. In addition, the development of methodology on MAR (monitoring, assessment and reporting) is required.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

Compared to the 3 Rio Conventions that have characteristics of legally binding instrument, bringing about the high-level political commitment would be limited under a non-legally

binding forest instrument. In terms of providing the venue for discussion on forest-related issues, it will not be in the equal playing field with other forest-related international conventions. Therefore, the extent of contribution coming from the implementation of forest-related international conventions is much larger.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The UNFF needs to contribute and actively participate in the negotiation and development process of the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☑ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

If the Secretariat could receive support from the member countries in the form of secondment and gratis personnel, administrative costs will be reduced significantly. This will strengthen the role of the Secretariat in fulfilling its functions more effectively by enhancing its efficiency and performance. The Secretariat should also be well-represented to provide equal opportunity and diversity.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF Secretariat, should be strengthened:

The UNFF should play a central role of the CPF, rather than just providing services such as coordination and facilitation of the work of the CPF.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

CPF and its member organizations are contributing and supporting the work of the UNFF, but as they also have their own mandate and functions to fulfill, the extent of support would be limited.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

If the CPF and its member organizations can mobilize their own resources to make secondment of officers to the Secretariat, it will strengthen the role of the Secretariat. It is also necessary to ensure that the works of the UNFF are not duplicated but parallel or complementing each other.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

Securing additional resources from the existing financial options such as GEF, PROFOR and Bali Fund, as well as ensuring their effective utilization are needed. Also, increasing investments on forests from the private sector is required.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

The developed countries are for a legally binding forest instrument before mobilizing resources/funds. However, developing countries are calling for more financial support and technology transfer before they can accept a legally binding instrument. In such circumstances, as the developed countries are the ones that can provide financial resources, discussions on the creation of a voluntary Forest Fund could be possible with a view to bring about a legally binding instrument, provided that the priority is placed on securing/mobilizing resources on forests. However, measures should be taken to ensure that these resources will be distributed based on agreed criteria.

Note No: 648 / 2013

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and has the honour to refer to the latter's letter dated 16 July 2013, requesting for views and proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations has the further honour to submit the South African views and proposals on IAF in the attached document.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) the assurances of its highest consideration.

PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

New York
5 December 2013

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests
United Nations
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Name of official submitting the views: Mr AR Madula

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe)

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

In its current form, the UNFF structure is not sufficient. Effectively it is a secretariat without an operational arm to make sure that resolutions taken are effectively implemented. The implementation of the resolutions is left entirely on the member states which may not have enough resources for implementation. In Africa, the African Forest Forum plays a significant role in operationalising the UNFF resolutions

South Africa 2

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

The UNFF strengthened political commitment to include forests to national and international development agenda by elevating, among other things, the role forests play in sustainable development and ecosystem management. It has led to political elevation of forests and harmonising of policies at the regional and sub regional level. Furthermore, success is noted on the following:

- Identification of financing needs, and gaps for forest financing;
- Establishment of Facilitative process;
- Collaborative work of the CPF which has enhanced focus on forests by many international institutions and;
- Partnerships' with regional and sub regional groups.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

The current IAF needs to be strengthened in order to meet the needs of the developing countries. The stengthening does not imply a legally binding instrument.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

SDGs are not separate from the post 2015 agenda but part of it addressing the three dimensions of the Sustainable development. The role of forests and trees outside of forests should be seen as crosscutting in the environment debate in the post 2015 agenda. The potential role of UNFF could be that of International Forest policy coordination, promoting SFM, reporting on contribution of forests towards achievement of the SDGs, mobilising financial resources for SFM and assisting developing LDCs, LFCCs and SIDS in mobilise financial resources for the same.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

The country led initiatives and ad hoc expert groups contributed significantly in the work of the UNFF through knowledge sharing, information dissemination and building international consensus on a range of issues. However, regional and sub regional organisations such as the African Forest Forum need to be capacitated to assist countries in the absence of operational support by the UNFF.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

South Africa consults on a broad level with all Stakeholders when preparing for any international engegement. However, in the context of forests, this level of consultation is minimal and at most informal. Engaging Major Groups has the ability to strengthen but not design policy decisions. The UNFF is also an Intergovernmental organisations which implies

that decisions are country driven

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

The IYF and IDF enhanced the efforts of countries in raising the profile of forestry both at a political and community level.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

Through the stengthening of regional or sub regional structures (where these exist) guidance can be provided on the implementation of the forest instrument. This would also include access to financing options available to developing countries as well as technology and skills transfer and development as well as capacity building.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

GOF 1: Support to developing countries to do proper inventory.
GOF 2: Establishment of a mechanism(s) for payment of ecosystem services will enhance the achievement of this goal.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

The successful implementation of the forest instrument and achievement of GOFs by implication contributes significantly to the achievement of goals of other forest related conventions like the UNCSD and UNCCC with regards to Forests and Climate change mitigation to mention a few.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The successful implementation of the forest instrument and achievement of GOFs by implication leads to the achievement of SDGs as they are seen as the final destination looking at poverty eradication as an overarching priority in the post -2015 agenda. Forests furthermore also addresses the three dimensions (i .e social, environmental and economical aspects) of sustainable development in a cross-cutting manner.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

The Forum is dependent on voluntary contributions and although such contributions to support the Forum activities have been reported to be increasing, it remains an unsustainable form of financing. The funding maybe adequate for the Secretariat in its current form, however, for the Secretariat to be able to provide adequate support to developing countries with regards to fulfilling its current mandate as well as ensuring implementation of resolutions emanating from other conventions eg UNCSD (Rio+20) especially on green economy and SDG's, sustainable flow of funds are needed. The secretariat will furthermore also benefit from increased human resources to provide support to developing countries in need of support regarding the implementation of Forum decisions and other functions that have been identified by countries.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

The financial contributions should not only be the responsibility of donor countries. As such, ALL member states must be encouraged and commit to do voluntary contributions according to their ability. In this regard, consideration could be given to approaching regional and sub regional organisations as well as the industry. Creation of an operational arm or section to deal with implementation of resolutions is one of the areas that would need to be funded to

make the Forum more effective. The establishment of the implementation will call for added human resources.
D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The role played by the Secretariat is acknowledged. All member states should consider contributing to the trust fund faithfully and according to their abilities to ensure sustained financial resources. Acknowledging that the secretariat has limited capacity, it is recommended that staff is seconded to the Secretariat.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: The CPF member organisations especially the FAO made significant contributions in helping developing countries in revising their policies to incorporate SD principles; monitoring of forest resources, reporting format, and capacity building. The Secretariat played a significant role in coordinating and organising the substative preparations for the organisation led initiatives in collaboration with FAO and facilitative processes amongst other things.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: South Africa requests that CPF members further contribute to the work of the UNFF by developing a road map for the harmonization of the collection and compilation of data on forest resources, especially non-wood forest products, in order to facilitate the estimation of the full extent of forest resources, building on existing efforts [and others initiatives, including the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services partnership, the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, the Green Economy Initiative, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, the OECD green growth strategy and the Poverty-Environment Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: A mapping excercise is needed to establish the full picture of what funding is available and

how to access such funds. Furthermore, access to established mechanisms should be simplified to allow for easier access by developing countries. At regional and sub regional level, consideration could be given to create regional specific forest funding mechanisms on the basis of an intergovernmental structure which will afford all members to contribute and access to such a mechanism. Until the global financial situation has improved, the establishment of a Global Forst Fund may only happen on paper and will also be competing with funds such as the Climate Change Green Fund. For the time being a basket approach (therefore the mapping excercise) would allow for expanded finacial exposure

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: .

See the above. Another option would be for the Director of the Forum to be authorised to have discussions with the Global Encironment Facility (GEF) to establish under which "windows" forest funding can profit in the absense of a forest dedicated window. To request that the 5th Replenishment of the GEF consider a Forest Window is premature and too late at this stage due to the timing of the meeting. Although there is a biodiversity window in GEF, note should be taken that forests are not always within the mandate of the Environemtal Ministries and therefore seldom if ever, profit from biodiversity related allocations.

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சுற்றாடல் மற்றும் புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க சக்தி அமைச்சு

Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy

"සම්පත්පාය", අංක 82, රජමල්වත්ත පාර, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
"சம்பத்பாய", இல: 82, ராஜமல்வத்த வீதி, பத்தரமுல்ல, ஸ்ரீ லங்கா.
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		29-Aug-2013

Director
UNFF Secretariat

Dear Madam,

UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangements
Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangements on Forests

This refers to your letter UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 of 16 July 2013 on the above subject.

Views and proposals of Sri Lanka on the International Arrangements on Forests (IAF) are submitted herewith in the given format.

Yours sincerely,

B.M.U.D. Basnayake
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy

Name of official submitting the views: K.P. Ariyadasa

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Phone/Fax: +94 11 2866616 / +94 11 2866633

E-mail: ariyadasa@yahoo.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Current UNFF process is sufficient for the time being and it is necessary to have a more concrete set of guidence to ensure sustaible management of all type of forests.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF has to be strenghthen and legally binding instrument on all type of forests is the most suitable way forward for future UNFF process.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Seven thematic areas in sustainable forest management, Non legally binding instrument on all type of forests and four global objectives of forests have already been agreed upon through the UNFF process and this need to be continued with a better monitoring mechanism.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Country led initiative and ad hoc expert groups provide valuble inputs to the UNFF sessions that can be used as the base for delebarations by the member countries and other partner organizations. Therefore, having these meetings in bettween two sessions provide a good opportunity to look in to important issues in detail prior to the bi annual sessions.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: Engagement of major groups in the work of UNFF is esssential as they are directly involved in the forest management activities. Exchanging views and experinece of member countries and knowing the role of the groups would be mutually beneficial for major groups as well as for member states

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Though the forestry is one of the most important sectors in almost all countries it lacks the international recognition and it has to piggy back on other more recognized processes such as CBD and climate change. Declaring the International Year of Forests and International Day of Forests is very important under these circumstance in order to draw the attention of policy makers and politicians on the subject of forestry in one hand and carrying out various actvities to promote sustainable forest management within the country during this period on the other.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Implementation of the forest intrument is done in voluntary basis and more commitment is needed to ensure sustainable management of all type of forests. A better monitoring system and systemic periodic reporting need to be built in to the process

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure

GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Loss of forest cover, both quality and quantity, is the most important issue to address and some sort of binding mechanism, legally or otherwise, is needed to arrest the loss of forest cover. Proper implementation of REDD+ initiaves will help to meet the first 3 global objectives up to some extent.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: As mentioned above UNFCCC initiatives (REDD+) have direct link with the implementation of NLBI. Implementation of NLBI has a direct impact on the CBD and UNCD.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Sustainable forest management is a part and parcel of post-2015 UN development goals. Proper implemetation of NLBI and meeting four global objectives of forests play a vital role in meeting Sustainable Development Goals.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: As presented in the 10th session of the UNFF dwindling resources has hampered the activities of the UNFF secratariet and it will affect the advisory and facilitation role of the Secratariet.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Strengthening the collaborative partnerships would help to overcome some of the difficulties facing by the UNFF Secretariet

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: CPF member organizations are engaged in forestry activities for many years and their efforts have provided good support for the implemenation of UNFF resolutions. These initiatives have a good impact on UNFF programs but not sufficient to meet all the commitments.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: CPF member initiatives need to be harmonized with the UNFF programd and shold be taken in to consideration in project design. Prgress monitoring can be done against the agreed principles under the UNFF.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Sustainable forest management is practced by many countries through national programs and lack of funding has been the main obstacle in achiving desired outcomes. Establishing a Global Forest Fund is one of the best initiatives to promote the SFM activities especailly in the developing countries. Having a legally binding instrument for all type of forests would help secure more donor funding. Trees outside the forests(TROF) play a vital role in forest conservation and remains as an agricultural source. Due recognition need to be given to TROF through UNFF and other UN organizations in order to promote the development of this important resource.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Rural Affairs

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6 December 2013

Mahendra Joshi
Acting Director UNFF Secretariat
DESA
DC2-2300
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Joshi,

In reference to the letter from Ms. Jan McAlpine, former Director of the UNFF Secretariat, dated 16 July 2013, I am pleased to herby send you the Swedish national report on the views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests. Please feel free to distribute the report and post on the web, as you deem necessary and appropriate.

The enclosed report focuses on the experiences and lessons learned, from a Swedish perspective, on the effectiveness of the current international arrangement on forests. Sweden believes that it is too premature, at this stage, to state a preference for options for a possible future arrangement on forests. However, my colleagues and myself look forward to the results of the independent review currently being carried out by consultants, as well as the upcoming discussions at meetings of the ad hoc Expert Group on International Arrangement on Forests.

I wish to thank you and your hard working team in the UNFF Secretariat for a successful year marked by, amongst other things, the celebration of the first International Day on Forests and the tenth session of the Forum.

Allow me also to extend my personal gratitude for your commitment to global forest policy and the UNFF over the past fifteen years. You will be dearly missed by forest friends around the world as you retire early next year.

I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season and best wishes for 2014.

Warmest regards,

Mia Crawford

Encl.: Swedish National Report: Views and Proposals on the IAF

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Memorandum

29 November 2013

Ministry for Rural Affairs

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Swedish National Report: Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests

Summary

Sweden welcomes the review of the effectiveness of the current International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). It provides an opportunity to reassess the global forest policy dialogue in light of past performance and at the same time address current and future global challenges and opportunities of relevance to forests. Some of the major achievements with the current IAF include a Forum with universal membership tackling forest policy holistically and the establishment of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. However, the current arrangement also lack real progress on the ground and stakeholders are left behind. Looking into the future, Sweden would like to stress the need to consider a broad range of options with the view of positioning any future IAF in the context of the post 2015 development agenda.

Introduction

Sweden, as a member of the European Union, aligns itself with the joint EU submission.

This report focuses on the experiences and lessons learned from a Swedish perspective on the effectiveness of the current International Arrangement on Forests. The report follows the broad framework of the reporting format provided by the Secretariat. The report has been developed by the Ministry for Rural Affairs in close cooperation and coordination with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Enterprises, Energy and Communications and the Ministry of the Environment. The report has also benefited from input from the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. In addition, some key national stakeholders have been consulted. These stakeholders represent forest industry, private family forest owners and environmental non-governmental organizations, as well as academia.

Section A: Full range of options for the International Arrangement on Forests

Sweden welcomes the review of the effectiveness of the current International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). It provides an opportunity to reassess the global forest policy dialogue in light of past performance and at the same time address current and future global challenges and opportunities of relevance to forests.

The world has considerably changed since the start of the global forest policy dialogue at the Earth Summit in 1992. However, the current IAF is still a reflection of the "forest track" that was set out in Rio by the Forest Principles and later further developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the UN Forum on Forests.

Sweden, being a forest rich country, with approximately two thirds of the country's land mass covered by forests, has long realized the interconnectivity of forest policy at home and abroad. Currently, Sweden is ranked as the world's third-largest exporter of saw timber products and paper, and the world's fifth-largest exporter of pulp[1]. Forests are important for Swedish prosperity and identity, the wellbeing of its people and conservation of nature.

In 2011 the Swedish government declared a forest vision accompanied with an action plan, this initiative is called the *Forest Kingdom: with values for the world*[2]. The Forest Kingdom is based on the sustainable use of forests and ensuring a balanced approach to both the protection of the environment, while at the same time maintaining a high level of production. Striking this balance is not always an easy task and sharing information, exchange on lessons learned as well as good practices with other countries is one of the tasks included in the action plan. Moreover, it highlights the important role that sustainably managed forests play in contributing to poverty reduction, food security, combating global warming and the loss of biological diversity. The action plan also includes targets, such as increasing export of forest products and technical know-how by 20% for 2020.

Currently, the Swedish Government Offices and the Swedish Forest Agency are involved in many different forest policy processes at the sub-regional, regional and international levels. In addition, Sweden is cooperating both bilaterally and multi-laterally on forest related issues with many countries around the world through many international organizations and directly through various MoU:s. This support is

[1] Swedish Forestry. Information brochure from the Government Offices of Sweden. Available on-line: http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/16151/a/202396

[2] The Forest Kingdom – with values for the world. Action plan from the Government Offices of Sweden. Available on-line: http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/14108/a/178773

often channeled through the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Sweden is greatly concerned about the policy fragmentation of forest at different levels. The review of the effectiveness of the IAF is an opportunity to look at the bigger forest governance picture. This review could not come at a more opportune time, since during 2015 much of the focus of the international community will be on the development of the post 2015 development agenda, building on the experience of the MDGs and the development of SDGs, as well as the development of a new global climate change agreement. Hence, in 2015, many processes are at a cross-roads and Sweden will work towards finding a path forward that gives due consideration to forests.

In light of this, Sweden believes that it is too premature, at this stage, to state a preference for options for future IAF. Sweden looks forward to the results of the independent review currently being carried out by consultants, as well as the discussions during the upcoming meetings of the ad hoc Expert Group on IAF (AHEG). However, Sweden believes that it is important that the consultants and the AHEG look at the full range of options for the IAF and position it in the broader context of the post 2015 development agenda.

In addition, Sweden believes it to be important that when analyzing the various future options one does this in the context of principal functions such as providing forest policy dialogue; fostering synergies among different forest processes and organizations; and strengthening implementation on the ground.

The some of the possible future options that Sweden will analyze in the months to come include, amongst others:

- continuing the current IAF with the possibility of strengthening and amending its mandate based on the assessment of its effectiveness;
- developing the IAF in a new direction allowing for broader mandate to address larger land-use issues, in order to address the underlying causes of deforestation, many which lie outside the forest sector (i.e. Landscape Forum);
- strengthening already existing forest-related legal instruments (i.e. UNFCCC, CBD and ITTA) or possibly initiating the development of a legally binding instrument on forests at the global level;
- transferring the global forest dialogue to already existing organizations and processes (i.e. High Level Forum on Sustainable Development, FAO and UNEP); and
- developing and strengthening forest processes at the regional and sub-regional level and the possibility of connecting these to a global framework, either legally or non-legally binding.

Section B: Performance of the UN Forum on Forests and its process since 2000

Key achievements

Universal and holistic approach to SFM

UNFF was established in 2000, after long negotiations, and it is a unique UN body, in that it has universal membership, but is organized under the ECOSOC. UNFF's universal membership is a testimony of the universal relevance of forest issues. No other forest-related organization, or process, has this unique membership, which is combined with a holistic mandate that covers all three pillars of sustainable forest management. Sweden also believes that CPF contributes to the uniqueness of the UNFF, see more under section E.

Keeping the forest agenda alive

UNFF has been able to raise awareness among governments and within the UN system on the importance of forests to people around the world and how forests contribute to sustainable development and the MDGs. UNFF has adopted several resolutions to this effect over the years, most notably on the NLBI and GOFs. Looking back some 15 to 20 years, it is evident that governments, through a continued dialogue, have been able to overcome great resistance in order to address governance issues, such as land tenure and illegal logging. Both these issues were, in the beginning, so contentious and difficult that no one dared to address them. Today, governments speak freely about these issues and acknowledge their problems of tackling both illegal logging and weak land tenure rights. Other issues that were difficult for the international forest community to initially employ were concepts developed in the environment and nature conservation fields, such as ecosystem services and landscape approach, which are now widely accepted. UNFF has contributed to these developments by offering a platform for discussions and dialogue between governments, intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders.

The International Year of Forests, which was later followed by the establishment of the International Day of Forests, are also examples of how UNFF has been able to raise the profile of forests globally and kept it on the UN agenda for the last 13 years. In Sweden we celebrated the International Year of Forests by high lighting the very important and multifunctional role that forests play in the society. This was done by celebrating the International Year of Forests at seminars, workshops and other forest related activities all over the country. A tree planting campaign was also launched in conjunction with organisation of Forest Days at 15 different locations spread over the country. A website for the International Year of Forests was also developed where a large number of forest activities during the year were widely spread.

Building trust and breaking the North-South divide

Sweden further regards the establishment of the Facilitative Process as one of the major achievements of UNFF. Forest financing has been one of the most difficult issues to address and has divided the world into North and South. The Facilitative Process has provided a platform for more focused discussion and to give voice to groups of countries representing Low Forest Cover Countries, Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. This has clearly helped in providing a better understanding of the special needs of certain groups of countries. Sweden sees great potential in building on the Facilitative Process and other regional and sub-regional initiatives that aim at strengthening the efforts towards sustainable forest management in those countries that are of most need of support.

Moreover, Country Led Initiatives (CLI) have been a positive element in keeping the momentum during the intersessional periods. It has helped in building trust between countries and in dismantling some of the barriers between the common blocks of countries that prevail during official UNFF negotiations.

Sweden, through the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, with the support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, has been working on an initiative for several years on the *Lessons Learned on Sustainable Forest Management in Africa*[3]. Two workshops in 2004 were organized as a Swedish CLI in support of the UNFF. The CLI was also jointly organized with FAO and the African Forestry Research Network. The initiative resulted in the establishment of the African Forests Forum, which is a platform for forest policy discussions in Africa. The African Forests Forum often organizes meetings prior to UNFF sessions, in order to ensure that African forest experts come prepared to the UNFF sessions. The Swedish initiative has also, amongst others, supported assistance to African delegations and African Union to participate in the UNFF sessions.

Major weaknesses

Lack of implementation

While the UNFF has resulted in a number of resolutions and engaged Ministers in High-Level Segments, Sweden believes that this activity creates an illusion of real progress. Film competitions and numerous side events conducted in parallel compete for attention and mask the fact that not much is happening on the ground. Implementation of UNFF resolutions and the previous proposals for action from IPF and

[3] The project stretched from 2003-2008 and had two phases. For more information on the project see the following website: http://www.ksla.se/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/KSLAT-2-2011-Swedish-African-forest-relations.pdf

IFF are not prioritized by governments and there is a lack of follow up. Reporting to UNFF is low and not much room is given during the sessions to address obstacles to implementation. Moreover, it is difficult to track progress and proper impact assessments are lacking.

Negotiation by exhaustion

UNFF sessions are characterized by long negotiations, stretching over days and nights. The informal nature and trust building exercise often applied during CLI are often long gone, as countries return to classical grouping during tough negotiations. A common tactic seems to be negotiation by exhaustion, which unfortunately is a common practice in many other multilateral organizations and instruments, including UNFF. The real deals, in the final hours of negotiations, are done by a small set of people in closed rooms.

There is a tendency that many countries are represented by their UN diplomats rather than by forest policy experts from their capital. This often leads to a difficulty to advance on real substance, or technical issues. Instead, much attention is given to more cross-cutting UN issues. Sweden would welcome exploring more innovative working methods during UNFF sessions, in order to stimulate far more fruitful dialogue on real content and cooperation across regional and political groups in order to break block dynamics.

The traditional grouping and polarization between various political groupings may also be a contributing factor to why UNFF has failed to progressively address new emerging issues and helped to shape the forest agenda in a successful and effective manner. The combination of both in effective meetings and inability to address "hot" issues has led to that UNFF is no longer the front-runner, the main forum for forest policy dialogue. Instead the forest dialogue, over the last few years, has been conducted in other fora, such as in the context of climate (REDD+), or the various processes set up as a follow up to Rio+20 and the post 2015 development agenda.

Stakeholders are left behind

A great disappointment from a Swedish perspective is the inability of UNFF to engage stakeholders, or what is commonly called major groups (9 major groups were identified at UNCED in 1992). Sweden has always encouraged stakeholders to be included in its delegation, or has facilitated the participation of Swedish stakeholders to contribute to the inputs to the sessions from major groups. Sweden is also concerned about the representativeness of some major groups when not a sufficient number of stakeholders are participating at UNFF sessions.

However, Sweden takes great pride in participating in the multi-stakeholder dialogue during UNFF sessions. Sweden regularly makes statements to show support to efforts made by major groups and to

highlight the importance of engaging stakeholders in global forest policy making. Sweden is of the opinion that major groups should be allowed to speak, not only during the multi-stakeholder dialogue, but also throughout the session by making suggestions to draft negotiating text along some existing practices that are commonly used in other processes, such as the Forest Europe process.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

The Forest Instrument represents a broad consensus on sustainable forest management. The Forest Instrument is well reflected in the Swedish model of sustainable forests management. However, the Forest Instrument has had limited impact on the Swedish forest sector, since the majority of actions in the Forests Instrument are already part of national legislation and normal practices. The Forest Instrument has, to some extent, contributed, along with other global forest-related processes, to raise the need for the Government to address the interconnectivity of national and global action on sustainable forest management. As discussed earlier, this is one of the main focuses of the *Forest Kingdom: with values for the world.*

As regards to the GOFs, and in particular the fourth one dealing with reversing the decline in ODA for sustainable forest management, Sweden would like to promote forestry issues in a more combined way, interlinked in the sustainable agendas of climate and environment as well as energy and private sector. The aim is to focus on the importance of forest issues in developing context and try to find a good entry point into a broader sustainable agenda.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

The ECOSOC resolution that established UNFF called for a compact Secretariat to service the IAF. As a result, a small Secretariat was established in DESA as an independent unit under the USG, building on the previous IPF/IFF Secretariat that had been part of the Division on Sustainable Development.

Initially, the Secretariat enjoyed great support from CPF members through secondments of Senior staff (ITTO, UNEP and FAO). However, with time Sweden notes with disappointment that CPF members have been sending less secondments and that the level of those staff members has decreased. Sweden believes that the secondment of CPF members is an important means of ensuring the policy coordination, which is one of the principle functions of the IAF. Moreover, CPF members, with their different comparative advantage, can significantly strengthen the Forum Secretariat on key technical

issues, since the core UNFF Secretariat are often more generalists or former UN diplomats.
Several countries have also seconded staff to the Secretariat, or contributed to the UNFF trust fund, that has enabled additional staff to be hired. Sweden wishes to thank those countries that have generously supported the UNFF trust fund over the years. Sweden has only contributed with limited resources to the UNFF trust fund and mainly in support of the Facilitative Process. However, Sweden seconded an Associate Expert (AE)/Junior Professional Officer (JPO) during the years 2001-2002.

Despite the compact nature of the Secretariat, Sweden notes with satisfaction that documentation to sessions of UNFF has always been submitted on time. The documents provide a good basis for discussions and often include the basic elements for resolutions that are later adopted by the Forum. According to Sweden, the UNFF Secretariat also services the sessions of the Forum to satisfaction.

Section E: Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its Member Organizations

Sweden regards enhanced cooperation, as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as one of the most important principle functions of the IAF. The establishment of the CPF is seen as very positive by Sweden. In building on the comparative advantages among the different organizations, the CPF is seen as an effective way of both supporting the policy developments by the Forum and assisting countries in implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and the various UNFF resolutions. Sweden would welcome that CPF not only supports forest policy and sustainable forest management in the framework of UNFF but rather more broadly in other forest-related processes.

Sweden believes that CPF has significantly contributed to supporting the policy development of the Forum. CPF and its members always play an active role during the sessions, with valuable statements and enriching dialogue. Moreover, we are impressed of the strong and coordinated efforts that CPF also has made in other processes as well, such as a joint side event during the Rio+20 conference and the Forest Day during climate change negotiations. CPF has also contributed greatly in advancing certain areas, such as harmonizing, monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests, and the harmonization of terminology, as well as forest finance. Sweden would also like to specifically highlight the valuable leadership and commitment that FAO has shown over the years to the CPF.

However, Sweden sees the limitations of CPF as not being able to deliver a coordinated response at the operational level (at least among those members of CPF that work in the field). Sweden is wondering why this would be the case and hopes that this will be one of the areas that the consultants and the AHEG will explore further. Sweden also sees some conflict of interest of UNFF Secretariat - on the one hand, servicing both the UNFF and CPF, and on the other hand, participating as a member of CPF. The difficulty of the duality in its role has been confusing at times.

Overall Sweden is supportive to mechanisms, such as the CPF, that enhance cooperation and stimulate better policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues, as well as foster greater synergies among relevant forests organizations and instruments.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

Sweden believes that sustainable forest management should be self-sustained and self-financed. Half of the productive forest land in Sweden is owned by private individuals. Of these, approximately 38 per cent are women and 62 per cent are men. Private forest companies own about one quarter of the productive forests land. The Swedish state and other public owners own approximately one fifth of the productive forest land. With this ownership structure each forest owner takes long-term responsibility for the sustainable management of its forests. No specific government subsidies or other incentives or other financing mechanisms are used.

However, Sweden recognizes that, for some countries, in particular developing countries, additional financing may be required in the transition from unsustainable forest practices to sustainable forest management. Sweden shares the view with the rest of the EU that financing for sustainable forest management should continue to come from a wide range of complementary sources: public and private, domestic and foreign, bilateral and multilateral. If all these resources are pulled together, then sustainable forests management should be possible throughout the world. Hence, Sweden does not favour creating a voluntary Global Forests Fund.

Moreover, Sweden wishes to stress that one of the important prerequisites for sustainable forests management is the importance of establishing an adequate enabling environment (including good governance, efficient law enforcement, and secure tenure and user rights) at the national level. This will greatly increase the potential for

mobilizing new and additional financing, in particular from the private sector.

List of abbreviations

AE	Associate Expert
AHEG	Ad hoc Expert Group .
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CLI	Country Led Initiatives
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs at UN Headquarters
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GOFs	Global Objectives on Forests
IAF	International Arrangement on Forests
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NLBI	Non Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (also called Forests Instrument)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. "+" goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USG	Under Secretary General

Sweden 11

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
International Affairs Division

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The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
DC2-2301
Two UN Plaza
New York
NY 10017
USA

Reference: M511-0559
Your reference:
Our reference: PFR
Contact person: GRU
Bern, 16 December 2013

Assessment of the IAF 2013

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to send you the Swiss views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

Sincerely Yours

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Franz Perrez
Ambassador

Enclosures:
- Swiss views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

Copies to: AL, GRU, MAR, KCH, DUC

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss views and proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)

I: Introduction

For Switzerland, forests have great importance for economic and social well-being, as well as for the maintenance of the environmental balance, for the protection against natural disasters, as a habitat of biological diversity, as a CO_2-sink, as a resource of timber and non-timber products and services.

The underlying causes of global deforestation and forest degradation are beyond the control of environment and forest ministries. Switzerland is therefore convinced that, due to the multiple cross-sectoral and international interdependencies, the challenge of ensuring the sustainable forest management (SFM) can be best achieved through cooperation between and within countries.

Switzerland is therefore convinced that a strong, international regime for forests is needed.

Since 1992, forests have been dealt with in the UN through various instruments and intergovernmental fora for international forest policy development:

- The Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests (1992).
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) (1995 – 1997) under the auspices of UN CSD.
- The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) (1997 – 2000) under the auspices of UN CSD.
- The International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) composed by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) established by the ECOSOC in 2000 as a subsidiary body to ECOSOC with a universal membership, representing the high level policy forum, and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (14 organizations/conventions related to forests).
- The "Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All types of Forests"(2007).

The UNFF's six designated functions were:

- To facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management
- To provide for continued policy development and dialogue among governments, international organizations, including Major Groups, as identified in Agenda 21 as well as to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner
- To enhance co-operation as well as policy and programme co-ordination on forest-related issues
- To foster international co-operation
- To monitor, assess and report on progress of the above functions and objectives
- To strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

II: Swiss answers to the format for soliciting views and proposals on the IAF

A: A full range of options for the IAF

Switzerland believes that the present IAF does not fill the expectations that were placed in the IAF in 2000, nor in 2006. The reasons are elaborated below on the basis of the UNFF questionnaire.

It is noticeable to look back and see that international forest policy has been addressed by quite a few different institutional set-ups since 1992.

Nevertheless, as it will be stated below, further development of the institutional set-up for SFM is greatly needed. Political commitment and collective efforts at all levels need to be further strengthened, to include forests on national and international development agendas, to enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation and to promote intersectoral coordination at all levels for the effective implementation of SFM of all types of forests.

The follow-up organ/instrument to the present IAF should provide a coherent, comprehensive, effective and efficient policy framework driving the implementation of SFM on the ground through enhanced political awareness and political leadership.

Such an organ/instrument should be entrusted with/contain the formulation of a common vision and of common goals and targets for strengthening political commitment between sectors within countries through policy deliberation, policy development, overarching policy guidance. It should also allow for the monitoring of SFM with clear indicators worldwide.

The follow-up organ/instrument to the present IAF should be the UN global forest policy hub for all other organizations/instruments related to sustainable forest management, including sectors such as biodiversity, climate change, desertification, agriculture , energy, water, public health, etc.

The follow-up organ/instrument to the present IAF should:

- Streamline forests/forest policy/SFM in the global sustainable development agenda
- Bring forest governance to all LBAs relating to forests (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, CITES, ITTA as well as regional instruments) so as to reduce the fragmentation of decisions and actions, as well as using synergies with forest related processes
- Catalyze cooperation within and between countries, as well as foster the implementation of concrete actions at all levels
- Monitor, analyze and report progress in implementation
- Contribute to identifying challenges and emerging issues in forest related issues
- Address forests in a nexus format: cross-sectoral rather than in isolation
- Build its work on regional processes and knowledge
- Operate peer-reviews of national forest policy

Switzerland is convinced that a legally binding framework would be the simplest and best approach to addressing in a cooperative spirit the common challenges of managing our forests sustainably, because this approach involves:

- The strongest form of commitment
- The highest authority within the sector and across sectors
- The most effective instrument to generate additional resources at both international and national levels
- The best instrument to ensure equal footing with other processes and conventions.

Due to different challenges and conditions in the regions, a global legally binding instrument replacing the IAF may take the format of a framework convention with a set of common overriding principles and goals, implemented through regional conventions/regional annexes of the convention (as in UNCCD) or national and/or local targets for the standards and levels of performance that need to be achieved or maintained (as in UNECE-WHO Protocol on Water and Health, art. 6).

B: Performance of UNFF and its process since 2000 and future options for UNFF

B1 and B2: UNFF structure and performance

The United Nations Forum on Forests was established by the ECOSOC in 2000 as a subsidiary body to ECOSOC with a universal membership. UNFF has been the only global high-level intergovernmental policy body on Forests.

Despite its mandate, UNFF did not succeed to decide, in 2005, to develop a legal framework on all types of forests. In 2006, the initial IAF (UNFF + CPF) was reconducted with some changes, strengthening the interaction between the global forest policy dialogue and regional and subregional level processes. In 2007, the NLBI was adopted.

Some of the relevant work in connection with enabling conditions for SFM has been done in CLI's in support of the UNFF. (see B5)

UNFF, through the joint work of the CPF, dealing with forest financing, had an impact on donors' coordination, bringing much knowledge on forest financing worldwide, specifically on the inadequacies/gaps/challenges of the financing system, as well as on the weaknesses in the donor and recipient countries. But singling out one issue in the means of implementation, and giving much time for it, made the discussion incomplete and has not allowed sufficient time to discuss other substantive themes of SFM.

The Facilitative Process through focused regional meetings in Africa, the least developed countries, the low-forest-cover countries, and the small islands has been one of the most positive ventures of UNFF. It showed the importance of looking into the financing challenges of as well the opportunities for regional hot spots, spreading information on forest financing to facilitate its access. Those seminars helped not only the recipients but also the donor countries/financing organizations in these regions to better focus the thematic of forest financing according to local conditions, raising the efficiency of demands as well as of provisions.

UNFF did stimulate a wide reporting from regional organizations initiated through the Regional Led-Initiative organized in 2008 by Australia and Switzerland. The regional organizations have been aware of UNFF work and have been discussing its results.

The objective of UNFF was to be the world platform for policy development and dialogue on SFM. Unfortunately, it ended up being mostly an endless negotiation arena, with little implemented soft law (NLBI and numerous resolutions), due to their non compulsory nature. The resolutions have had little impact on other sectors or conventions. Side-events enabled substantial discussion and information exchange.

At the same time, the climate change convention has put forests far more in the limelight than UNFF, even though mostly relating to the carbon.

The UNFF High Level sessions, long series of prepared interventions, have not been as interactive as one could have wished. There was little time for discussion due to their format.

The NLBI reporting has been low (around 25%), but increased in 2012 through the organization of some regional capacity building seminars. Therefore, its effectiveness as well as its impact is hard to judge.

UNFF has attracted all the international organizations of the forest sector and those related to it (among them the members of the CPF) but with a decreasing interest over the years. In addition, it did not succeed to establish regular links with the forest-related sectors that strongly influence/impact the forest conservation and sustainable management.

Although it was in the IAF mandate, there has been little attention given to follow-up of all the IFF and IPF proposals, partly because of poor institutional memory of countries due to changes in staff and delegations. In addition, UNFF seems to invent new concepts/ventures, forgetting to look back at the past work.

The website of UNFF has not been modernized for more than 6 years. It is increasingly difficult to find substantive documents of its new ventures that are hidden by video clips. Improvement is much needed so as to enable a quicker search of documents. Sometimes, important documents (such as those for the facilitative process) were placed in obscure locations on the UNFF website. General public light communication seems to have been its unique purpose.

At country-level, there is little institutional memory on the origin and purpose of UNFF and the CPF. There is a certain sense of remoteness from problems on the ground. Coordination is weak in capitals between experts on forests and those of other sectors, including with the focal points of the forest-related conventions. This also has impaired the work at UNFF.

B3: Future options (See A)

B4: UNFF and the post-2015 development agenda
This fully depends on the final format of the follow-up organ/instrument to the present IAF and its role in the post-2015 development agenda.

B5: Country-Led initiatives and Ad Hoc Expert Groups
The Country-led/Organization-led/Region-Led initiatives have been numerous and very useful to inform participating countries on more specific issues, discuss and develop them in informal settings. It also allowed countries to deal with emerging issues. It played an important role in exchange of experience and capacity building. Nevertheless, their findings were little captured by the secretariat to enrich the documents for the sessions and the resolutions.

Some of the relevant work in connection with enabling conditions for SFM has been done in CLIs in support of the UNFF. In the pivotal complex of forest governance (comprising questions on tenure and use rights, decentralization and the interplay and roles of different governance levels from national to local), since 2004 Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico and the Ukraine have biannually organized a series of international workshops as country-led initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, bringing together countries undergoing decentralization and governance reform, from around the globe and within regions, in a spirit of mutual exchange and learning. The workshops in the series brought together a mix of participants from Government, civil society, research institutions, community organizations and the business sector. All were organized around key aspects of decentralization and governance theory and practice in the context of the forest sector, and considered cross-cutting issues of livelihoods, equity and sustainable development more generally. All were

designed to draw lessons and recommendations for action by the United Nations Forum on Forests and other key institutional actors and decision makers. The series of workshops can also be considered as the contribution of UNFF to a larger debate on tenure rights which did also manifest itself in the work of the Rights and Resources Initiative or the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (2012), and did also surface as a key aspect in the negotiations of the UNFCCC and the REDD+ safeguards. In spite of the CLIs in support of the UNFF and the crucial importance of the theme for the implantation of SFM, the themes, findings and recommendations of the workshops were little captured in the official documents of the UNFF sessions. A key document which encompasses the first four workshops and which was jointly sent by Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico to the Secretary General of the UN can be found at http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/693/46/PDF/N1069346.pdf?OpenElement (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents-unff.html#9 . Letter dated 2010/11/03 from the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General • E/CN.18/2011/16)

Ad Hoc Expert Groups have been preparing, through intersessional meetings, the sessions of UNFF on specific items of the agenda. Somehow, their work has not always been advancing the work of UNFF as the same discussions restarted at UNFF sessions. This might have served more as capacity building than anything else.

B6: Engagement of major groups

The multistakeholder (i.e. major groups) dialogues were given a half day session in the middle of the UNFF sessions, looking more like a "side event", and were poorly attended by very few delegations. These dialogues had little impact on the formal decision-making as major groups were not integrated in the plenaries. Their participation was ghettoized with this separate dialogue session.

B7: Impacts of the International Year on Forests (IAF)/International Day of Forests

At global level the 2011 International Year on Forests created increased attention on the importance of forests, at least within the UN processes. Switzerland has been honored during IAF, having one of the six best forest policies and legislation.

At national level, some countries used this opportunity for promoting forests and sustainable forest management nationally, even if it is difficult to find the right ways of communication in a time of overflow information on all sorts of topics. It is also challenging to keep the attention on forests on a long term basis due to their slow growing nature.

C: Non-legally binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI)

It is difficult to judge to which extent the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) has been implemented since reporting was low (2011: only 16 reports: 2012: 55). The only advantage it might have brought is through some cross-sectoral coordination within countries, supported by some UNFF seminars. The rate of reporting is still too low. In some countries, it did not bring additional national financing resources because of its voluntary nature.

Apart from the Global Objective on Forests number 4 (GOF4), the 3 others lack precise indicators. The non legally binding nature of the GOFs did not influence the forest-related conventions' decisions as they have their own, legally binding goals and have more precise targets.

According to the study on forest financing of the CPF, the Global Objective on Forests 4 (Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management) has been reversed, mainly due to REDD activities as well as a window for financing SFM within the GEF.

The GOFs might be a basis to build on a SDG on forests if it is so decided. But any SDG will need more precise targets and indicators. So the development of SDGs might possibly run in parallel to the NLBI GOFs and the SDG process should be given priority given its impact and political importance.

Section D: The Forum's secretariat

Countries continuously asked for information on the structure, number of employees and their tasks as well as financial mechanisms, especially given the large number of consultants that have been engaged to link with national UNFF focal points to write reports. Lack of transparency was one of the reasons of little response for contributions of the trust fund of UNFF.

The participation of UNFF staff in other international forest-related foras has not been as active as one would wish. Although MOUs were signed between UNFF secretariat and other organizations, it is unclear what they encompass and how this had any effect on the work of either UNFF or the given organizations/conventions. . There was also no analysis or reports on these MOUs.

It is also noticeable that some important members of the CPF have not seconded any staff lately as they did in the past.

The funding of the extrabudgetary activities of the secretariat has not been clear.

The secretariat engaged in some activities/ documents that were not agreed upon by the countries/Bureau.

Section E: CPF and CPF members

The CPF has been an important platform for getting some of the 14 organizations to discuss and come forward with very useful documents on common issues such as climate change and more recently with great knowledge, the forest financing. The sourcebook on forest financing has also been an important asset, although it is difficult to know how useful it has been to recipients countries. The main problem of the CPF is that it is not a body headed by UNFF as most members are independent conventions driven by their own governing bodies. This had an effect on the low level of participation of some of its members, by lack of time and finances.

It is unclear how the CPF members have transmitted the work of UNFF into their constituencies.

Recent developments on SDGs have not been addressed in a concerted manner.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

The facilitative process has been of great value to increase the understanding of the funding sources and mechanisms, the obstacles to access them and to join regional donors with countries. It also had a great value in capacity building.

Forest financing must come mostly from national sources (public and private). As far as international support is needed, the recent Warsaw REDD+ framework might influence other future forest finance processes. It states that results-based payments cannot be received without first a presentation of a summary report on safeguards (with forest governance as an important aspect). Unfortunately forest governance in many countries is yet to evolve to create the proper conditions for improved access to and increased funding, including accountability and transparency.

A legally binding instrument would be the only set-up that would allow for a global forest fund, as this is the case in other instruments. On the other side, the implementation of a legally binding instrument needs new and additional finances.

UNFF is not the appropriate institution for such a fund, as it is a policy forum and not an implementing agency. Cooperation with existing funding mechanisms should also be included in the reviewing different options.

In conclusion:
Past assessments and lessons learnt have not received the necessary follow-up and thus had no recognizable impact; this assessment must be taken more seriously

Switzerland 8

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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PM/2013/ 760

16 December 2013

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the of the United Nations Forum on Forest in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and following the secretariat's letter dated 25 October 2013, regarding request for submission of views and proposals on the international arrangement on forest IAF. The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations has the honor to attach herewith a CD and format which include views and proposals of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in Syrian Arab Republic responding on the above mentioned letter.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations avails itself of its opportunity to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forest Forum, and the assurances of its highest consideration.

Bashar Ja'afari
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Mr. Jan L. McAlpine,
Secretariat of the United Nations Forest Forum
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Attachment: 2 Pages and CD

Ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform

Name of official submitting the views: forest directorate

Address: Damascus - Syria

fax:00963112240826

E-mail:forestry@mail.sy

Section A:

* A legally binding instrument on all types of forest

Section B:

B.1 According that the changes which occur in forest sector happens gradually, so the period 2 years to held UNFF meeting and its current structure is suitable

B 2- UNFFs achieves through ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35 8 and ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 9 an useful instrument by establishing the United Nations Forum on forest as an intergovernmental body on sustainable forest management

One of the strong point that the United Nations Forum on forest considers

-to promote the sustainable management of all types of forest.

- to promote the implementations of internationally agreed actions on forests at national, regional and global levels .

- to enhance cooperation as well as policy and program coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments as well to contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors

- to enhance the contribution of forest to achievement of the internationally agreed development goals

B.3- UNFF have to consider on biodiversity, Climate changes, and economic values of forest ecosystems

B.4- UNFF will plays decisive role in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs

B.5 – County-led initiative and ad hoc hoe expert group have an important role and impact, they give learn lesson, and give pioneer case for work groups, they add values through their experience.

B.6- it will gives good chance to enhance information exchange, and feedback.

B.7- The international year of forest and the international day of forest form good occasion for public awareness to the importance of forest and its direct and indirect benefit and other services, and to indicate to the threatened forest.

Section C:

C.1 Adequate

C.2- No suggestions, the progress adequate

C.3- GOF1 : Adequate

GOF2: Adequate

GOF 3: Adequate

GOF 4: Adequate

C.4- The progress is adequate .

C.5- through : ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35 8, ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 9, resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex 10. Resolution 2 of UNFF10 11

C.6- through : country-led initiative ad hoc expert, training, work-groups, exchange knowledge.

Section D:

D.1- Adequate

D.2- Establishment work-groups at regional and global levels .

D.3- Establishment an interactive network.

Section E:

E.1 They have good impacts on implementation of sustainable forest management, and they are sufficient

F.2- through increasing and enhancement of cooperation between CPF and UNFF

Section F:

F.1- Applied binding tax on the investment in forest, creation of voluntary global forest fund

F.2- Specification continues fund, and continues tax, especially from developed country

Syria 3

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM
TANZANIA FOREST SERVICES (TFS) AGENCY

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15/10/2013

Ref. No. TFS. 135/545/01

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat - DESA
One United Nations Plaza - DC1-1245E
Tel: 917-367-4244
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RE: VIEWS AND PROPOSALS ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS

Please refer to the above heading.

Tanzania – Forest Sector through Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency received the format for soliciting views and proposals on International Arrangement on Forests.

Please, find attached the filled form for your further processing.

Juma S. Mgoo
Chief Executive

Copy:

(i) Mr Hossein Moeini-Meybodi – E-mail: moeini@meybodi@un.org
(ii) Ms Thida Sam – E-mail: sam@un.org

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM (MNRT), TANZANIA FOREST SERVICES AGENCY (TFS)

Name of official submitting the views: JUMA S. MGOO - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000 and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The structure is sufficient but there is need to improve link and effectiveness of the bureau and the country relevant office or focal person.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49: 1.Recognizing the importance of the international year of forests with enhanced public concern for environment protection including increased tree planting by individuals and small tree growers; 2.Recognizing the decline of the ODA enhanced establishment of national mechanisms for financing of sustainable forest management; 3.Recognizing expert groups being important in sustainable forest managment initiatives such as establishment of private-public-partnerships in private forest establishment. 4.Considering the contribution of major groups in achieving SFM ehnaced more advocacy on conservation.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: UNFF to strengthen collaboration with member countries on implementation of IAF and Global objectives on forests as may necessarily be improved over time.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: Making emphasis on the importance forests for Sustainable Development includingd maintenance of stable ecosystems and provision of habitats for life support systems, leave alone enahcing livelihood for the majority of forests neiboring and dependent communities. There should therefore be deliberations for enhacing the Global Forest Fund (GFF) to be functional to assist members states in securing finances for implementation of such issues as emerging and of global concern.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: The role should include to encourage countries to participate but there is Limited impact due to minimal emphasis and understanding of member states' roles due to limited participation.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: There should be effective networking between groups in member states in order of building their capacity interms of understanding their roles on SFM. However, directives for involvement of major groups are not known by memberd.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: It has created awareness on forests; increased attitude to plant trees among communities and public in general. Else, it enhences commitment of decision makers and opinion leardes in raising awareness on the importance of forests and need for tree planting.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Commitent of all member states on implementing the instruments should be emphasized.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☒	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Information sharing between member states; effective systems for follow-up of implementation GOFs in all levels including involvment of expert groups.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: alignement of forest Instruments and GOFs with policies, nfps and legislation.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: concerned with new development challenges the both the forest instruments and GOFs are essential in addressing SFM in that arena; emphasizing the importance of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Development of national forest fund; Promote development of other specialized funds;
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Development of relevant frameworks to support establishment of funds; Assess the available financing options and their effectivenss; Explore opportunities for forest financing at national level; Strengthen research; UNFF to collaborate with CPF members in building capacity of member states on forest financing matters; establish favourable conditions on reversing the decline in official development assistance.

No. 56101/31

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, with reference to the latter's Note No. UNFF-13-L-HMM-219 of 16 July 2013, soliciting views and proposals from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the international arrangement on forests (IAF).

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations would like to transmit herewith the completed "format" on the IAF.

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations,

New York

28 January B.E. 2557 (2014)

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat,
NEW YORK.

Thailand 1

Country/Organization: Thailand / Royal Forest Department

Date of Submission: 30 October 2013

UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests
Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
July 2013

1. According to the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in 2015 will be "Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests (IAF)." At this session, the Forum will review the effectiveness of the IAF and decide on its future.[1]

2. In preparation for UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made a number of decisions during the last fourteen years.[2] Most recently, Member States through Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10 decided to undertake several intersessional activities to ensure UNFF11 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make a decision on the future of the IAF.

3. One of the three components of the intersessional activities on the IAF, as outlined in Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10, is to solicit views from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. Specifically, the Resolution invites countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations, other relevant organizations, relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to submit views and proposals to the Forum's Secretariat on the six key issues set out in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, and the full range of options on the future international arrangement on forests. The UNFF Secretariat should provide the compilation of these views and proposals to the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG1) on the IAF[3].

4. This format has been prepared by the Forum's Secretariat to facilitate submission of the inputs on the IAF to AHEG1. The electronic version of this format is available at: (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/docs/Views-on-IAF.doc). Member States and other relevant stakeholders are invited to download this format and use it to submit their views and proposals in English. The explanation in each box should not exceed 150 words. Member States and other stakeholders are kindly requested to submit the original copy of the completed format in word processing software, with a scanned copy of the official letter from their respective organization/ministry/mission, via email to: unff@un.org, with copy to Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi at: moeini-meybodi@un.org, and Ms. Thida Sam at: sam2@un.org. All inputs should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by **30 October 2013.**

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[1] Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42), please see:
http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement

[2] ECOSOC Resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42) and Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and its annex (E/2013/42)

[3] OP 5 and 6 of Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and paragraph 2 of its annex- Please see:
http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/321/90/PDF/N1332190.pdf?OpenElement

1

Thailand 2

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment / Royal Foresy Department

Name of official submitting the views: Mr.Sumet Sirilak, Director of Foreign Forestry Division and Mr. Suchat Kalayawongse, Director of Forestry Economic Division

Address: 61 Phaholyothin Rd., Ladyao, Chatuchack, Bangkok 10900 THAILAND

Phone/Fax: +662-561-4292 ext. 5036

E-mail: ssluckforest@hotmail.com, suchat_forester@yahoo.com

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Sufficient

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: With regard to the UNFF's performance ,most of member countries adopted to promote the sustainable management of all types of forest and the enhancement of the coordination and cooperation among Governments,international organizations and public-private partnerships for the improvement of forest resources and local communities including the peoples whose livelihoods depend on forests.

[4] Please see these documents at:
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Establishment of IAF and Global Forest Fund so that the UNFF will not only provide policy guidedance but also implementation on the ground.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The role of UNFF should support the achievement of the UN Post-2015 development agenda and the SDG, ESP, implementation on the ground.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: N/A

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: It's effective only on awareness raising but no clear actions on implementation on the ground.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: In Thailand, the major stakeholders pay commitment to promote the greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitments on forests. At the international level, we do not have sufficient information.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Need more supports on technical and financial to improve the progress ,and also the monitoring and evalutions for better improvement.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Need more resources on technical and finacial to support the implementation, and also the monitoring and evalutions for better improvement.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: It is very much contribute to other conventions such as UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, CITES, etc.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: GOFs can supprot various activities related to forest which contribute/implement to post-2015 UN development agenda and SDG.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: Require more staff and budget to increase the effectiveness of the work.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Need regional UNFF officers to closely work with members in each region.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Should have both regional and global forum for UNFF and have more frequently meetings/activities.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: The impacts of CPF and CPF's member are not sufficient to achieve the goals of UNFF

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Establishment of valuntary Global Forest Fund.

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Agree to create the voluntary Gloval Forest Fund. UN should establish measures to generate resources to put in the funds for the implementation.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Initially,UNFF all concerned parties should have a committee to create the establishment of the fund and appropiate methods of contributions such as; 1. voluntary contribution from UN developed countries 2. Other global fund, such as GEF, CPF, FCPF, etc. should clearly indicate proportion to support the program of work for forestry development with this financial mechanism. 3. Voluntary donation from private sectors

PERMANENT MISSION OF TUNISIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
31 BEEKMAN PLACE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

البعثة الدائمة للجمهورية التونسية
لدى منظمة الأمم المتحدة
بنيويورك

A.D/2013 ■442 ■

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and has the honor to convey, herewith, the views and proposals of the Tunisian Authorities on the International Arrangement on Forests.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations has the honor to convey that Mr. Sassi Day will represent Tunisia in the Workshop on the International Arrangement on Forests to be held in Vienna, October 22nd and 23rd, 2013.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) the expression of its highest consideration.

New York, October 16th, 2013

PERMANENT MISSION OF TUNISIA TO THE U.N.

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DC2-2301, Two UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA
Phone: +1 212 963 3401 / +1 917 367 4244
Fax: +1 917 367 3186

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Ministry of Agriculture - General Directorate of Forests

Name of official submitting the views: Youssef SAADANI

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Phone/Fax: +21671848892 / +21671801922

E-mail: ysaadani04@yahoo.fr

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Non, la structure actuelle de l'UNFF et ses sessions biannuelles sont insuffisantes pour prendre les mesures adequates et fournir les conseils politique et technique à tous les problèmes et questions liés à la gestion de tous types de forêts dans le Monde.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49: La performance essentielle de l'UNFF est de servir comme forum international permettant de soulever et discuter les problèmes majors du secteur forestier et les questions intersectorielles connexes (pauvreté, changement climatique, développement durable, économie verte, etc.). Les principales réalisations sont:

- Adoption et appui à la mise en oeuvre des propositions d'actions IPF/IFF
- Appui à la formulation et mise en oeuvre des programmes forestiers nationaux,
- Réflexion sur l'instrument juridique international sur les forêts

- Etude sur les possibilités du finanacement durable du secteur des forêts.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: - Mettre les moyens pour la mise en oeuvre de la gestion durable des forêts; notamment la mise en place d'un fond forestier international.
- Developper et instaurer une convention spécifique ou arrangement international sur les forêts.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: - Faire valoir le rôle du secteur forestier dans la mise en oeuvre de l'agenda de developpement de l'UN post-2015 et les objectifs de developpement durable,
- Mettre en exergue la contribution du secteur des forêts à la sécurité alimentatire et la nutrition.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Etudier des questions majeures liées à la gestion durable de tous types de forêts et faciliter la discussion et la prise de resolutions.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: L'engagement actuel des groupes majeurs est varié et à titre volontaire. La mise en place d'un instrument jurique international est de nature à améliorer l'engagement des divers parties dans le travail de l'UNFF pour la gestion durable de tous types de forêts.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: Ces deux evenements constituent des opportunités pour discuter les différentes questions liées au secteur des forêts et pour renforcer les efforts pour une meilleure sensibilisation des décideurs et du grand public pour la préservation et le développement des ressources forestières; notamment à travers des journées et des camapagnes de reboisement.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Développement d'un instrument legal.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Developper des mécanismes nationaux et internationaux pour le financement durable des forêts

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: faible contribution vu que la mise en oeuvre de l'instrument forestier n'est pas obligatoire pour les pays.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: La préservation, le développement et la gestion intégrée avec la participation des populations locales des ressources forestières permettraient le développement socio-économique durable et la préservation de l'environnement pour les générations actuelles et futures.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☒ Not sure

Additional explanation: Secretariat pas représentée à l'échelle régionale et nationale.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Etendre la structure du Secretariat à l'échelle des pays et régions.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Assurer plus de concertation avec la FAO en établissant des secretariats mixtes et de groupes de travail conjoints.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Les impacts et l'efficience des programmes et actions du CPF restent insuffisants pour la mise en oeuvre du programme et des resolutions de l'UNFF.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Par la participation aux différentes réunions et sessions de l'UNFF, la coordination et l'organisation de manifestations et la mise cen oeuvre d'activités conjointes CPF-UNFF

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Ceci est possible à travers le développement d'un système de payement des services environnementaux rendus par les forêts et l'ajustement des systèmes de comptabilité nationale dans pour tenir compte du concept de l'économie verte.
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: - Aider les pays à évaluer les biens et services rendus par le secteur forestier, - Inciter les pays à adopter des reformes institutionnelles; notamment les systèmes de comptabilité publique, - Aider à l'expérimentation et la vulgarisation des systèmes de payement des services environnementaux rendus par les forêts, - Etablir un fond international pour le finanacement des forêts et activités forestières.

ПОСТІЙНЕ ПРЕДСТАВНИЦТВО
УКРАЇНИ
ПРИ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ ОБ'ЄДНАНИХ
НАЦІЙ

Phone: (212) 759 70 03
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220 East 51st Street
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PERMANENT MISSION
OF UKRAINE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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4132/23-134/042-2009

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat and has the honour to transmit herewith the information on soliciting views and proposals on the International Agreement on Forests (IAF) by State Forest Agency of Ukraine.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Attachment: 6 pages.

19 November, 2013

United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat
New York

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine

Name of official submitting the views: Kornienko Viktor, Head of Science, International Cooperation and Public Relation Division of State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine

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E-mail: vpk@dklg.gov.ua

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- Other options (please describe) regional legally binding agreements on forets

☒ Keeping in mind that different countries have different attitude to legally binding agreement on all types of forets it will be beneficial to develop, negotiate and implement regional legally binding agreements on forets. Such agreements could influence on concrete region and in more extent consider demands and characteristics of sustainable forest management of such concrete region -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: Ukraine supports the practice of UNFF sessions every two years and sees that the Forum sessions provide an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and views on the agenda. Materials for each session provide an excellent opportunity to monitor trends in forestry. But along with this it is worth to shorten length of the sessions up to one week.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: • UNFF is serving as a platform for discussion problems of sustainable forest management at global perspective. • Under UNFF umbrella it was eleborated and adopted forest instrument and global objectives on forests. • Under UNFF umbrella it is carried out important and useful studies, in particular on assessment of trends and ways of financial support to forestry, the role of forests in economic development etc. • Under the initiative of UNFF it was organized and conducted the international year of forests and provided assistance in introduction of the International Day of the forest
B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Continuation of the discussion of the main problems and challenges in forestry in a global perspective; promotion of relevant research; condaction of expert meetings.
B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: As a platform for discussion of problems and challenges of sustainable forest management in global perspective UNFF will further enhance the awareness of the major trends in sustainable forest management and provide the information support.
B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: Both components of UNFF work are important and useful. Country-Led initiatives in most cases facilitate the exchange of experiences and raise awareness about certain issues of sustainable forest management at the regional scale. Expert Groups provide elaboration of proposals on the set of question involving a wide range of experts from around the world.
B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: Involvement of major groups in UNFF work provides the best opportunity to involve the public in the discussion on challenges of the sustainable forest management.
B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: We believe that the International Year of Forests and the annual celebration of the International Day of forests strengthens the status of forests and forestry in each country and provides additional drive information in the public aimed at raising awareness of the problems and challenges of forests and forestry.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Strengthening of implementation of forest instrument could be achieved on the one hand by increasing of financial support for forest sector, on the other hand be enhancing communication with governments and the public on the implementation of the main components of forest instrument.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☒	☐	☐
GOF2:	☒	☐	☐
GOF3:	☒	☐	☐
GOF4:	☒	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:
GOF1 and GOF 2 - Enhancement of outreach with governments and society
GOF4 - Increasing volume of financial support not only for developing countries but also for other categories of countries, especially for countries with economy in transition.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: Global objectives on forests intertwined with other international environmental conventions, in particular implementation of 3d global objective on forests has a direct link to the Convention on Biological Diversity

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Global objectives on forests intertwined with other international environmental conventions and directly have an impact on improving the environment of the planet

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Increasing financial resources on it functioning

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: Increased financial resources and strengthening of communication aimed at strengthening the role of the Secretariat

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Members of CPF provide technical and partial financial support inter alia for conducting meetings of experts in the framework of UNFF

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: Continuation of technical work and increase financial support inter alia for participation in the UNFF activities

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

We consider it appropriate to work on strengthening existing financial mechanisms for supporting sustainable forest management, which among other things should include:

- Simplification and harmonization mechanisms and approaches the allocation of financial support.
- Enlargement of directions and areas of allocation of financial support.
- More focus on the special needs of each country.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

1. Creating additional department under UNFF Secretariat that would be responsible for provision of methodological and technical support for countries aimed to explain the

opportunities, challenges and approaches for obtaining financial support.
2. Conduct of the survey to identify areas of required international financial support for sustainable forest management including the provision of expirience exhange, technologies transfer and the acquisition of specialized equipment and machinery.
3. Targeting CPF members on the needs of countries.

Ukraine 6

THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States' Mission to the United Nations is pleased to provide its submission of input for the review of the International Arrangement on Forests. Our mission thanks the United Nations Forum on Forests for allowing us to provide our views for this review.

Regards,

Julie Kim
ECOSOC Advisor
U.S. Mission to the U.N.

We believe that the CPF represents a unique model that has contributed to fostering interagency cooperation within and outside the UN system. In this respect, we would like to highlight in particular the significant contribution of the CPF as a whole in the areas of monitoring and reporting on forest resources (harmonized questionnaire), harmonization of terminology, forest finance and science policy interface. At the same time, the work of the CPF as a whole has been hampered by clear limitations at the operational level, with particular reference to the lack of dedicated resources and the limited impact of the CPF in terms of coordination of the respective forest-related programmes of the various CPF member organizations, particularly at the regional and national level. Furthermore, we would like to note the lack of a clear division of labour between the different CPF members along the lines of policy making (target setting, policy instruments, monitoring). To illustrate: UNFF/CBD/UNCCD/UNFCCC could be for target setting; FAO for implementation and monitoring; , CIFOR, ICRAF, IUFRO for research etc.).

The EU and its Member States strongly believe that an effective international arrangement on forests needs to facilitate enhanced cooperation, and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues amongst this crucial set of organizations with a strong mandate on forests.

The role of the FAO as Chair of the CPF has been appreciated by the EU and its Member States.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

On the issue of financing options and strategies, the EU and its Member States would like to recall the significant work undertaken over the past years by the Forum on the issue of Forest Finance, notably through the work of ad-hoc expert groups and country and organisation-led initiatives on forest finance and the technical input provided to this process by the CPF. The work of the Ah Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on Forest Finance showed that the financing landscape for forests has evolved considerably since the creation of the UNFF with the emergences of new programmes and financing opportunities both at the international (GEF SFM/REDD+ programme, Green Climate Fund, the FCPF, the FIP, REDD+, and the UN REDD programme, FAO Forest & Farm Facility) and regional or national level (regional processes, national forest financing strategies and national forest funds, etc.). Nonetheless, thematic and geographic gaps remain and there is scope for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of existing international and national instruments. The multi-annual work of the UNFF on Means of Implementation has also demonstrated that there is no easy, single solution to existing problems of forest financing. Addressing effectively the problems of forest financing requires engaging in a wide range of activities that includes both the mobilisation, access and effective use of funds for investments, as well as the generation of additional revenue streams based on the payment of forest goods and services.

The European Union and its Member States are of the opinion that financing for sustainable forest management (SFM) should continue to come from a range of complementary sources; public and private, domestic and foreign, bilateral and multilateral. We would emphasize that the role of Official Development Assistance (ODA) can only be catalytic and that ODA is most effective when delivered in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in support of the objectives set in recipient countries' poverty reduction strategies and other national development plans and sectoral policies.

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Foreign Affairs/U.S. Department of State

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☐ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☐ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☒ Other options (please describe) We recommend enhancing the current international Arrangement on Forests, including through strengthening the role of the CPF to realize its full potential. _____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: We believe the practice of large-scale biennial meetings is not the most effective use of resources to enrich the international policy dialogue on forests. It is our view that such high-level meetings could take place only every four years, with a more flexible and dynamic intersessional process linked to other processes, including those of CPF and its member organizations.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The top six achievements of UNFF to date are 1) Creation of the CPF, 2) agreement on the NLBI and the GOFs 3) Database on financing, 4) Streamlining of Forest Data Reporting (through the CPF), 5) Enhancing

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The importance of establishing an adequate enabling environment at the national level in order to scale up financing for SFM can hardly be over-emphasized. In particular, there is a great potential for mobilizing new and additional financing in the private sector through an enabling regulatory and investment-friendly environment (including good governance, efficient law enforcement and secure tenure and user rights).

The thorough assessment of the current situation of forest financing carried out over the past years allowed the Forum at its 9th and 10th session to take major decisions and make a range of proposals and recommendations on this subject for governments, CPF member organizations, donors, international financing institutions and the private sector. This has included, amongst others, the establishment of the Facilitative Process which, notwithstanding the remaining challenges and scope for improvement, has proved to be an effective way to build capacity for effective resource mobilization at the national level. In our view, the use of the Facilitative Process is still far from having realized its full potential. The EU and its Member States would like to recall here that UNFF10 concluded that the work of the expert group does not provide us with sufficient, conclusive evidence that the establishment of new forest-specific financing mechanisms, such as a global forest fund, can at this stage help us in addressing the multiple challenges of financing for SFM.

The EU and its Member States believes that financing options and strategies for the future of the IAF need to be considered as an integral part of the review of the IAF, rather than in isolation. Different options and strategies for implementing the future IAF will depend on the legal and institutional nature of the new arrangement so it is premature at this stage to consider any option in particular. Furthermore, this element of the IAF should also now be considered in the light of other major international processes on financing issues such as the follow-up to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and to the International Conference on Financing for Development. In this respect, the EU and its Member States would like to stress the need to reinforce coherence and to avoid a duplication of efforts through an integrated approach to the various Means of Implementation aspects of the Rio+20, the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant processes.

Concluding remarks

- The EU and its Member States hope that the views expressed above will help to further the future work of the UNFF, the CPF members, and other stakeholders on the review of the international arrangement on forests.
- We look forward to participating constructively in the follow-up discussions on the matter, including, at the appropriate time, with possible views on advantages and disadvantages of different options for the future of the International Arrangement on Forests, its envisaged functions, structures, requirements and deliverables.

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international focus on reforestation and forest restoration, 6) raising awareness of forests issues in the UN system and more broadly, including through the International Year of Forests (IYF) and the International Day of Forests (IDOF).

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: As noted in A.1, above, the United States recommends enhancing the current International Arrangement on Forests, including through strengthening the role of the CPF to realize its full potential.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: The potential role of the UNFF might be to highlight the importance of conserving, sustainably using, and restoring forests for achieving broader development goals. It might also serve as a conduit for taking a more cross-sectoral view of forests. The UNFF is not an implementing agency and its role in "implementing" the post-2015 development and SDGs needs to be strictly consistent with its mandate for promoting dialogue and mobilizing political will.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:
We think that the CLI, OLI, and AHEGs which draw from the UNFF Multi-year program of work (MYPOW) are effective and at times more productive than the UNFF official meetings, allowing for more frank dialogue, focus on specific topics, and (especially through CLIs) genuine buy-in from countries, regions, and organizations involved.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:
Since UNFF is a political, rather than an operational, body there are natural limits on the role of major groups in this forum. Still, the continued relevance of UNFF into the future will in large part depend on strenthening the engagement of actors beyond national governments and intergovernmental organizations. The UNFF Secretariat engagement with Major Groups has improved the quality and relevance of MG input to more recent meetings. CLIs also provide space for stronger MG participation.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:
IYOF and IDOF are useful tools especially for conveying information to individuals outside the forest community. The US Forest Service received a significant amount of press coverage for activities related to IYOF and IDOF. Domestically, IYOF was a platform for the US to focus and highlight work on urban forests, wood as a "green" building material, and our watershed accessments.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: The United States believes that progress is accurately and usefully measured in terms of actual progress towards achieving the GOFs, and an accounting of actions taken to achieve the substantive actions recommended by the NLBI, although policy and programmatic references to the "Global Objectives on Forests" or the "NLBI" may not always be explicit. By this measure, we believe there has been significant action by many countries and organizations, and assessments of the NLBI and GOFs have helped recognize this. Assessments by UNFF and others should pay careful attention to assessing the extent to which content of the goals and the actions called for in the NLBI are being taken, even when the language is not identical to the specific text.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☒	☐	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: Progress has been made in restoring degraded forest lands in some places, and at stabilizing gross forest cover in temperate and boreal regions. However, the loss of primary forests remains a central concern, particularly in the humid tropics, since this is where deforestation rates are fastest and the loss of biodiversity is most acute. Progress could be improved by a more explicit focus on addressing the drivers of deforestation of primary tropical forests, such as industrial-scale agriculture, as well as mining, infrastructure development, and human settlements. Some progress has been made in improving livelihoods of indigenous and other forest dependent local communities in some places, particularly through the recognition of local land and resource tenure and the spread of community-based forest conservation, but more remains to be done on this. ODA for forest finance has increased dramatically since 2007, thus progress on GOF4 must be deemed adequate, although mobilizing additional resouces from domestic resources and the private sector is needed.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: As noted above in C.2, this question should be answered in terms of substantive progress on implementing the particular actions and goals articulated in the NLBI. Clearly, slowing the loss of primary tropical forests is key to addressing the terrestrial dimension of the extinction crisis that is at the heart of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Similarly, restoring degraded forest lands is central to achieving the objectives of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Conversely, the focus on REDD+ in the UNFCCC since 2007 has given a boost to efforts to implement many of

the objectives of the NLBI.

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: As addressed at Rio+20, the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forests and ecosystems are central for efforts to achieve food and water security, as well as conserve biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A continued focus on sustainable forest management, including articulating the GOFs and provisions of the NLBI, can reinforce this message and be relevant for discussions on related issues such as land, degradation, food security and sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☒ Adequate
- ☐ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation: The UNFF Secretariat's dedicated and hardworking staff has been a key reason for UNFF accomplishments over the past years, in particular the critical functions of servicing and facilitating an effective UNFF intergovernmental process and catalyzing complementary action by CPF members and the Major Groups in support of UNFF objectives. The continued compact structure and an efficient use of resources can make the UNFF Secretariat a positive model for UN institutional stability and appropriate restraint. UNFF members, in UNFF sessions and outcomes, must provide clear priorities for the Secretariat's work, so that limited resources and personnel can be focused on essential work.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: It is critical that the Secretariat remain focused on its central role in UNFF and the CPF. The Secretariat should not exceed its mandate and resources by straying into the implementation of activities that can be and are carried out by Member States, the CPF and its member organizations, other capacity-building organizations, and Major Groups. Stronger engagement of stakeholders and Major Groups in UNFF processes might allow the Secretariat to more effectively tap the diverse institutional and intellectual resources of the NGO, scientific and private sector communities.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The United States sees the CPF as a major success of UNFF. The UNFF Secretariat has been key in consolidating the CPF and facilitating its work, in

cooperation with FAO as Chair and a number of especially active members. As referenced in B.2, the Sourcebook on Financing is a valuable contribution and, together with work by a subgroup on finance, was important information for discussions on forest finance under UNFF. The Forest-Climate Action Plan is another positive example of the UNFFS working with CPF.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: The CPF was established as a main element of the International Arrangement on Forests. The CPF has and should continue to support the deliberations of UNFF through focused activities like its past work on forest finance and on forests and climate change. Further, the CPF has significant potential--already realized and still to realize--to: (a) constitute a core network for capacity-building, technical and policy support, financing, and implementation to achieve the GOFs and the actions set out in the NLBI; and (b) build awareness and encourage action to bridge the gap between discussions on forest policy and broader development dialogues, including in ongoing discussions to elaborate the post-2015 development agenda, in order to address forces that drive deforestation and to recognize the contributions of forests.

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: [Please see E.1 also.] The CPF as a whole has been an effective way to leverage and integrate the institutional strengths of various members: technical support, capacity-building, forest monitoring and information, outreach materials, research, and political support. CPF member organizations individually have made substantial contributions to sustainable forest management and to UNFF- and CPF-related activities, with the support of their members and governing bodies. When member states decide through UNFF to invite CPF action, UNFF members will need to be cognizant of the need for specific support through CPF member organizations and voluntary contributions to support such work. Beyond responding to specific requests, the CPF will continue to support the objectives of UNFF by marshalling international political will and technical support to advance actions such as those in the NLBI and the GOFs. Discussions on the IAF should include consideration of additional options for the CPF, such as engaging stakeholders, providing a forum between less frequent or shorter UNFF sessions, etc.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: Increasing flows of finance in support of forest conservation, sustainable use, and restoration requires mobilizing finance from all sources, domestic and international, public and private. This, in turn, requires countries and communities to establish enabling

policy conditions that allow donor funds to be utilized effectively, and private sector investments to yield profits while benefiting forests and local communities. Just as important as mobilizing new funding for forests is redirecting finance away from activities that destroy or degrade forests. We need more investment in activities and programs that conserve and sustainably use forests. The question is not only "how much" forest finance but, critically, how to ensure "that financing for economic development and investment activities does not harm forests." SFM and timber markets are sources for employment and can play a role in economic development.

The United States does not favor the establishment of a "global forest fund", and does not believe that continuing debate on doing so is the most effective way to either increase financing for sustainable forestry or redirect funding from activities that damage forests and essential forest ecosystem services.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: [Please see F.1.] The CPF Sourcebook on Financing is a useful and important reference, and we favor updating this as possible. Programs such as the GEF mechanism for sustainable forest management and various REDD+ initiatives demonstrate the potential to recognize and leverage forest contributions to other goals such as biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Lending institutions and their members can support safeguards and vetting processes to avoid activities that damage or degrade forests. The United States believes it is critical to recognize capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies on mutually agreed terms as fundamental contributions to support countries in improving forest management. Forest monitoring and information can contibute to transparency, stakeholder engagement, and performance which can help support an enabling environment and secure financing.

EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
Head of Delegation

New York, 29 November 2013

Dear Mr. Joshi,

Please find attached the submission on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 28 Member States in response to the invitation by the UNFF Secretariat (ref. UNFF-13-L-HMM-219) to submit views and proposals for consideration by the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG) on the review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in the context of the comprehensive process for the Review of the effectiveness of the IAF established through UNFF10 resolution 10/2.

The EU and its Member States look forward to a thorough and forward-looking review process which should consider a full range of options for the future of the IAF, including new and innovative options for a more effective future IAF.

We hope that the preliminary views expressed in the attached submission will help the follow-up discussions on the matter, and we will be ready to provide, at the appropriate time, further input, including possible views on advantages and disadvantages of different options for the future of the International Arrangement on Forests, its envisaged functions, structures, requirements and deliverables.

We look forward to participating constructively in all inter-sessional activities that have been agreed at UNFF10 with the objective to provide a solid basis for an informed decision on the future of the IAF by the Members of the Forum at the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forest in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Mayr-Harting
Ambassador

Annex:
- Submission by the EU and its Member States in response to the UNFF10 resolution 10/2 on Emerging Issues

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SUBMISSION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

ON

VIEWS AND PROPOSALS ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS

Introduction

This submission by the European Union and its Member States is a response to the invitation by the UNFF Secretariat (ref. UNFF-13-L-HMM-219) to submit views and proposals for consideration by the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG) on the review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in the context of the comprehensive process for the Review of the effectiveness of the IAF established through UNFF10 resolution 10/2. This submission may also be complemented by additional submissions by individual EU Member States.

The EU and its Member States wish to put forward some preliminary views on the review process and look forward to engaging in all inter-sessional activities that have been agreed at UNFF10 with the objective to provide a solid basis for an informed decision by the Members of the Forum at the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forest in 2015. However, it is recognized that this submission represents only one of the very first steps in a much broader and articulated review process, which will include amongst others an independent expert assessment of the current IAF, as well as discussions in the context of the newly established open-ended ad-hoc expert group on the review of the IAF. As such, the EU and its Member States look forward to a thorough and forward-looking review process which should consider a full range of options for the future of the IAF, including new and innovative options for a more effective future IAF. Such analysis should also recognize that the discussion on the future of the IAF needs to also take into full account how the broader international environmental governance context has changed since the establishment of UNFF in 2000 and the further changes that are being made with the implementation of the Rio+20 decisions (e.g. strengthened UNEP, HLPF), the development of the SDGs/post-2015 UN Development agenda and ECOSOC/UN reform. Relevant developments on forest-related conventions, particularly Rio Conventions should also be taken into account.

The EU and its Member States will continue to provide their input throughout the review process and look forward to productive discussions at the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group on the review of the IAF.

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

The EU and its Member States have begun an in-depth reflection on the strengths and weakness of the current IAF, as well as the challenges and opportunities for the future international arrangement on forests.

However, at this stage, the EU and its Member States remain open to consider a full range of options for the future of the IAF. From the point of view of the EU and its Member States, it would be premature to take any definitive position on the set-up of the future arrangement on forests. In fact, the agreed intersessional activities of the Forum should play a fundamental role in informing the position of UNFF Members by providing factual evidence on the performance of the current IAF and its ability to fulfil its mandate, as well as by stimulating a

reflection on the needs, challenges and opportunities for a future IAF which needs to be more effective and efficient in its operations. As already stated above, such a reflection cannot take place in isolation from other major regional and international developments with far-reaching implications on the international forest policy dialogue.

In this respect, the EU and its Member States would like to stress that, in order to take full advantage of the intersessional work, the review process should not be limited to the three options explicitly mentioned in the questionnaire designed by the Secretariat (i.e. a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening of the current IAF or continuation of the current IAF). In this regards, the EU and its Member States would like to recall that in the context of the IPF/IFF process and, more recently, in the build-up to the adoption of the Non-Legally Binding Instruments on all Types of Forests, a number of options, including various proposals from different Members or group of Members have been considered by the Forum. For instance, in its submission to the 2004 Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the parameters for the mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on all Types of Forests, the EU listed an extensive range of possible options, including both binding (a global forest convention; a framework convention with regional/thematic annexes; a protocol under the CBD) and non-binding options (improved UNFF; discontinuation of UNFF in favour of existing instruments; reinforced role of FAO).[1] We herein refer to this list as a non-exhaustive example of alternatives that may deserve further analysis and consideration.

The expert analysis, the submissions of views and proposals and the discussions in the context of the AHEG for the Review should serve to think critically about the shortcoming and opportunities for improvement of the existing IAF, and provide new thinking on the way forest issues are dealt with in the rapidly changing international environmental governance architecture. The on-going review process should capitalize on the previous analysis and discussions, and reconsider the full range of options in the light of the new developments.

Against this background, the EU and its Member States would like to note that the current IAF, with its complex architecture made of various constitutive elements (the Forum, the UNFF secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests - CPF), was intended to reflect the fact that forests play a crucial role in addressing many sustainable development challenges and global issues such as climate change, biodiversity, combating desertification, food and food security, and energy supply. Global forest governance is complex because it is influenced and, to a certain extent, driven by its multiple linkages with other forests-related issues. Adding to the complexity is a wide range of actors, policy instruments and financing mechanisms. Several multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio Conventions, as well as various UN agencies and international organizations have a mandate for forest related matters. The strength of the cross-sectoral importance of forests is also its weakness as the current international forest governance architecture does not fully reflect and does not facilitate taking full advantages of the many linkages between forests and other issues. The institutional challenge we face is how to work together on forests to contribute to sustainable development. Therefore we have to look beyond the forests in the context of global challenges.

The establishment of the UNFF as subsidiary body of the ECOSOC serviced by a "compact" secretariat located in UNDESA had the intention to provide a broad institutional umbrella for the consideration of forest-related issues, providing space and visibility at the level of the UN Headquarters in New York. With its universal membership and broad mandate to address

[1] http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/forum/background-1.pdf

forest issues from the angle of all three dimensions of sustainable development, the UNFF was intended to serve as policy forum to stimulate, guide and coordinate the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests which was created to bring together various UN and non-UN agencies with a mandate related to forest and enhance their ability to coordinate and deliver together on forest issues.

Overall, the current arrangement on forest has allowed to make some progress in advancing the global discussion on forest issues (the NLBI represents a major milestone in this respect and should not be underestimated, along with the work on forest finance, monitoring and reporting/data harmonisation). However, pending the results of the comprehensive review of the current IAF, it appears already clear that the current set-up for the IAF presents several shortcomings and that it has been unable to deliver satisfactorily on all of its functions as mandated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49. This applies in particular with regard to its mandate to achieve a significant impact on implementation of regional and national forest policies, as well as to strengthen interaction with relevant regional and sub-regional forest related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organisations and processes. Cooperation and policy coordination on forest related issues among the relevant international organizations and instruments have improved to a certain extent through the work of the CPF, but concrete ways and means to further strengthen the role of the CPF are still needed. Furthermore, it should be noted that the mandated functions of the IAF lack a clear identification of the respective roles and responsibilities amongst the UNFF itself (e.g. all Members of the Forum), the UNFF secretariat and the CPF in delivering of the various functions of the IAF. A description of concrete mechanisms for follow up on decisions and for promoting action is also lacking.

The set of functions for the IAF identified in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49 remain highly relevant. Furthermore, there is a continued need for a 360 degrees forest policy dialogue. At the same time, the review of the IAF provides an opportunity for the international community to address well-known issues related to institutional fragmentation and we expect that the independent expert assessment of the IAF and the discussion in the context of the AHEG will thoroughly consider opportunities for simplification and reduction of overlaps between the UNFF and other existing organizations/fora such as FAO's Committee on Forestry or the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), as well as with regard to the work of forest-related MEAs. Progress on REDD+ negotiations under the UNFCCC, as well as on-going discussions under the CBD (Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi targets) and UNCCD should also be taken into account.

The future international arrangement on forests will need to be more effective and more cost-efficient. It should allow an increased visibility for forest issues, and be able to achieve increased involvement of policy-makers, private sector and the civil society in its processes. It should promote the significance of forests, the multiple products and services they provide and their contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development and a comprehensive view on forest development and forest management. At the same time, it should contribute to establishment of concrete mechanisms and actions to avoid deforestation and forest degradation, including conservation of forest biodiversity. Because forests are subject to increasing pressure from other sectors (e.g. agriculture) and effective cross-sectoral and cross-thematic approaches, including in synergies with other forest-related MEAs, will be essential.

Its architecture should take into account and be aligned with the new international environmental governance structure that is gradually emerging as a result of the

implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document. In this respect, the creation of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development provides a new potential platform for truly integrated discussions on the role of forests in sustainable development at the UN headquarters level and it should be considered what role the HLPF could play in the future IAF. The strengthening of UNEP and its newly acquired universal membership should also be taken into consideration, along with evolving regional processes, including, but not limited to, the Legally-binding Agreement on Forests in Europe that is currently being negotiated in the pan-European region. In this respect, the IAF should enable a forest policy dialogue which is relevant to different regions. Furthermore, the on-going process for the development of Sustainable Development Goals as an overarching integrated framework to drive the post-2015 Development Agenda will have an impact on the role of forests in the global sustainable development agenda.

When analysing and considering various options for the future IAF, the review process will also have to consider effective ways for further improving science/policy interface with regards to forest-related issues building on the work of the Global Forest Expert Panels, while at the same time recognizing the role of existing scientific and research institutions and intergovernmental processes such as the IPCC and the IPBES.

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

With regards to the achievements of the UNFF, the EU and its Member States would like to recognize that with its comprehensive mandate encompassing all the three dimensions of sustainable development and integrated approach to dealing with forest issues, the UNFF has obtained some degree of success in providing a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among Government and building broad consensus on the building block of sustainable forest management, culminated with the adoption, in 2007 of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests (NLBI) and of the four Global Objectives on Forests (arguably the biggest achievement of the UNFF process so far). The UNFF has also contributed to raising awareness among governments and the public as a whole on forests and sustainable development (International Year of Forests and International Day of Forests) and to advance a number of topics in the global forest policy agenda (illegal logging, governance, forest ecosystem services, etc.). UNFF has also provided a platform for ministerial engagement (albeit with mixed success and limited impact) and contributed directly, together with the CPF, to assuring visibility of forests in the wider UN agenda, more recently in connection with the on-going work on the SDGs. Finally, the UNFF might have also contributed to the acceptance of national forest programmes as a key policy instrument for SFM. However, it should be equally noted that the UNFF has not been over the past years the only forum where forest issues have been discussed (G8 action plan against illegal logging; REDD+ negotiations) and that external processes have often anticipated and in some instance contributed more directly to bring the world's attention to the forest issues. The case of the REDD+ negotiations in the framework of the UNFCCC is emblematic in this respect.
On the contrary, it can be argued that the UNFF process appears to have been much less successful in facilitating and promoting implementation of actions on the ground; and in

enhancing cooperation and synergies on forest related issues among the relevant international and regional organizations at the operational level.

However, it should be noted that the current structure of the UNFF as an intergovernmental forum placed at the heart of the UN headquarters in New York has resulted in a tendency to politicize the discussion within the forum, in an excessive focus on NY cross-cutting issues, and in representation of Governments in UNFF session by professional diplomats rather than national forest policy makers. This has limited significantly the ability of the Forum to serve to its full potential its function of policy advice and guidance.
Against this background, the EU and its MS would also like to highlight that the UNFF Bureau should have had a greater influence in guiding the work of the Secretariat in order to ensure that the UNFF process remained truly driven by Member States.

The work of the UNFF has also been affected by inadequate mechanisms for engaging with relevant regional processes, beyond the mere reporting at official UNFF sessions.

The role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives has been mixed. While offering a good opportunity for UNFF members to engage in inter-sessional activities and discussions, CLIs outcomes and reports appear to have had a limited impact in the discussion during UNFF sessions. Proliferation of forest-related meetings in recent years and limited possibilities for some of the experts/country representatives to attend them may have contributed to this issue.

Similarly, the ad hoc expert groups have been used in the context of the UNFF more a tool to carry forward negotiations or pre-negotiations sessions, rather than fully exploiting their potential to serve a technical and expert function to produce high-quality documents for consideration by the Forum.

Another evident shortcoming of the current structure of the UNFF is the ineffective engagement of major groups both during official session of the Forum and during inter-sessional events. While certain improvements have been observed, major groups input remains largely confined to the multi-stakeholder dialogue, with no opportunities for major groups to actively participate in sessions of the Forum. A more open and transparent role of major groups in the context of the future arrangement on forests could be ensured by providing more opportunities for major group representatives to make statements on all agenda items during the plenary sessions.

Concerning the future options for the UNFF and its potential role in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs, the EU and its Member States believe that it is not possible at this stage to provide any specific view on this subject. On the one hand, Member States have not yet had an opportunity to discuss options for the future of the IAF as a whole. In this context the future of UNFF cannot be considered in isolation and its continuation in its current form should not be given for granted. On the other hand the process for the development of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda is still in its early stages and there are too many aspects of the future framework which are to be decided in the appropriate fora.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

The EU and its Member States see the Forest Instrument as a notable milestone in the international forest policy dialogue and an important tool to promote comprehensive approaches to Sustainable Forest Management. However, as highlighted in the recent report to the 10th session of the UNFF, the EU recognizes that gaps in implementation of the NLBI/Forest Instrument and in the attainment of its four GOFs remain. We reiterate our commitment to the full and successful implementation of the Forest Instrument and look forward to discuss with others effective ways and means through which the future International Arrangement on Forests may contribute to a further strengthening of the Forest Instrument and the achievement of its objectives. In this respect, we recognize the work of the FAO in supporting countries in implementing the Forest Instrument, including through the pilot projects which have allowed the promotion of comprehensive approaches to forests at the national level.

The EU and its Member States note that activities undertaken in the framework of other forest-related international agreements, initiatives and fora have directly contributed to the achievement of the GOFs. In this respect, the contribution of the debate on REDD+ within the context of the UNFCCC, or the activities promoted by the UNCCD or by the CBD through, inter alia, its Forest Biodiversity and Protected Areas programmes of works; or the extensive policy and project work carried out by organizations such as FAO, World Bank and the ITTO should not be underestimated. On the other hand, we note that there is limited awareness about the NLBI and its objectives beyond the forestry community.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

Overall, the EU and its Member States think that, notwithstanding the limited size of the Secretariat, its structure, human and financial resources have been generally adequate to fulfil its mandate. We note however that as compared to the early years of its establishment, when secondment of staff from CPF Member Organizations had had an extremely positive impact not only in terms of capacity, but also in terms of building close relationship between the UNFF Secretariat and the CPF as a whole, this practice has withered over the years. We also acknowledge the contributions by members of the Forum that have enabled additional staff to be hired.

We note that there have been limited opportunities for Member States, through their Bureau representatives, to provide guidance to the secretariat, including on the use of the Trust Fund, and in the future increased transparency in the secretariat's planning activities should be ensured.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

The EU and its Member States recognize the important role played by the CPF and by individual CPF member organizations in supporting the work of the UNFF, and in assisting countries with the implementation of the NLBI and in the development of national forest policy and legislative framework. In addition we would like to acknowledge the role played by CPF member organizations in strengthening the newly established UNFF secretariat, particularly in the early stages of its establishment, through the secondment of staff. We note however that such practice has not continued over the past years raising some concerns, and thus contributing to weaken the secretariat.

Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013

Ministry / Organization: Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF)

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A stepwise approach beginning with strengthening of the curent IAF at regional levels and ultimately leading to a legally binding instruments on all types of forests.

Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- ☒ A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- ☒ Strengthening of the current IAF
- ☐ Continuation of the current IAF
- ☐ Other options (please describe) -

_____

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The biennial sessions are sufficient

Other potential actions to increase effectiveness include : a) active engagement of civil society (MGs) b) institution of clear mechanisms for policy implementation, c) promotion of bilateral and regional intersessional initiatives/meetings and communication on common goals and d) establishment of Regional Liaison position at UNFF secretariat to monitor and coordinate regional activities and also work with regional organizations in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals of actions.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]: The principal function of UNFF is to develop policies and oversee the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals of action. So far the work of the forum has focused largely on policy discussions. The principal achievements of the forum thus far is mobilizing governments and multilateral institutions to build common understanding around a number of issues relating to sustainable management of forests, formulation and implementation of national forest programs and development of C& I of sutainable forest management.

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF: Continue with the core mandate to facilitate multilateral intergovernmemtal forest related policy processes, b) serve as a forum to develop initiatives and monitoring and evaluating of progress made in SDGs relating to forests, c) secure political commitments of governmemts and gain optimum participation of developing countries by holding some of the biennial meetings in non-UN cities and d) foster stronger enabling environment for the implementation forest policies e) strengthen the cross-sectoral linkages between forest and other sectors f) support active participation of civil society groups in the activities of UNFF and f) set up forest Trust Fund to support international capacity building and activties of the forum.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs: To catalyse actions to protect and sustainbly manage forests which is and will remain the principal goal of the forum beyond 2015 the forum should work closely with the Open-Ended Working Group on SDGs in ensuring that forests and forest related issues are adequately addressed through specific SDG for Forests or through a cross-cutting Integrated Landscpe SDG that place premium on land, forests, biodiversity, water and renewable natural resources.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF: CLI and AHEG provide crucial and focused technical inputs for negotiations during the biennial sessions, b) enables discussions of more concrete issues and increase the building of political momentum, c) allows wider participation of technical experts who in many cases do not have the means or opportunities to participate in the biennial sessions, d) provides opportunities to bring the minds of many to bear on country specific issues. CLIs and AHEGs are essential parts of the IAF and should continue and be complimented by OLIs (organized by CPF members) and MGLIs (organized by Major Groups).

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement: The Major Groups represent a cross section of forest stakeholders including women, Indigenous people, forest workers and small scale forest owners. Their active engagement is not only necessary for the legitimacy of the UNFF processes but also crucial for SFM. In spite of the vital contributions made by the group in the past in shaping various policies and commitments there has been a steady decline of resources for their intersessional preparatory activities and participation in the biennial meetings. Their participation in UNFF should go beyond the 3-hour MSD slot. The group

should be facilitated to consult their constituents through organized intersessional activities.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests: •The IYF and Day of Forests are major milestones in the work of UNFF. Both initiatives have led to a variety of actions to promote awareness of citizens of the vital role of forests in our economic, social , and environmental well being. More media coverage could have amplified some of the positive responses from countries and civil society. Regrettably in many countries the events did not go beyond the day of launch. • Linking public events to current political processes on the occasion could further increase their impact and ultimately influence policy-making processes.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress: A clear implementation strategy based on best practices should be developed by expert group.
An accountability mechanisms to monitor implementation of commitments are needed.
The cross-sectoral linkages and spill-over benefits of effectively implementing the four GOFs need to be recognized and emphasized..

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	☐	☒	☐
GOF2:	☐	☒	☐
GOF3:	☐	☒	☐
GOF4:	☐	☒	☐

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:Progress has been slow in many countries because the implementation capability is non existence. There is the need to establish the link between implementation and means of implementation.

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa: The forest instrument contains actions to promote SFM. The instrument provides options for addressing biodiversity conservation (CBD Aichi targets 5, 7,11, 14 and 15), climate change (reducing emission from deforestation forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks and enhancement of carbon stocks through afforestation and reforestation) and desertification (reversing land degradation and restoring lands and improving affected ecosystems).

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: The central message of the forest instrument and the GOFs is sustainable management of all types of forests. Forests are integral part of landscapes that provide essential resources for sustainable development. Sustainable management of forests is crucial in capturing all the goods and services by forests.The forest instrument and the GOFs can therefore contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the SDGs if internalized by member states.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- ☐ Adequate
- ☒ Inadequate
- ☐ Not sure

Additional explanation:

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively: Propose the setting up of Regional Liaison postion to coordinate , monitor and work closely with regional organizations and other stakeholders in the implementation of policies and initiatives.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened: The secretariat should play the role of a facilitator for shaping the discourse within CPF and between CPF and other opinion groups. l

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception: Noticeable contribution of CPF include a) Formulation and implementation of national forest program (NFP) led by FAO, b) ITTO criteria and Indicators of Sustainble Forest Management of Tropical forests and providing experts for the various activities of the forum.
E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum: •Providing expert opinion on issues •Shaping the discourse of how forests can cater to the agenda of different interest groups. Intergrating agreed policy implementation into their work programs based on the appropriateness to their institutional mandates .

Section F: Financing options and strategies
F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests: A mix bag of financing schemes should be pursued. This include A) public funding (public funding could be boosted through effective engagement with politicians), b) A Global Forest Fund to be administered by a multilateral Institution c) Private sector financing with clear guidelines to allay the distrust of private financing of forests d) portfolio of Innovative Financing Mechanisms eg water services, conservation concession, bioprospecting, debt swaps and climate related schemes (REDD+, CDM).
F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: Percentage of GDP mechanism must be established as a means of financing the Global Forest Fund.

July 2013

Ministry / Organization: **International Forestry Students' Association**

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

A legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Strengthening of the current IAF X

Continuation of the current IAF

Other options (please describe) ----------

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels:

- Yes, biennial multi-lateral meetings are sufficient.
- Potential actions to increase effectiveness may include: Fostering more intersessional exchange among countries, increasing bilateral initiatives and communication on common goals, intra-regional meetings, incorporation of expert-level opinion in political agenda-setting.
- We would like to see UNFF play a more active role in all negotiations occurring at the UN with regards to climate, sustainable development, industry, trade, land tenure, rights of indigenous peoples. Forests don't exist in isolation, and issues threatening forests cannot be solved in isolation. Unless members of the UNFF are empowered to have a voice in these other negotiations, we are afraid that forests will remain a marginalized topic.

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49[4]:

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

- Continued mandate to facilitate multi-lateral intergovernmental forest-related policy-processes
- Forum to develop initiatives and provide input for monitoring and evaluating progress made in SDGs relating to forest topicsr
- The Forum needs to expanded and strengthened.

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

- Work toward how forests can be included in the SDGs. Be it as part of a "Natural Resources" SDG, as a separate SDG in itself, or as part of a range of SDGs by referral to how forests play a role in accomplishing the objective of the respective SDGs.
- The UNFF can play an extremely important role. Sustainable management of forests are linked to sustainable livelihoods, and protection of ecosystems.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

- Involvement of additional stakeholders
- Opportunity to discover new issues and to look at challenges from another perspective through a specific country-lense.
- Dealing with issues according to national priorities, or dependent on expert opinion.

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

- MGs provide vital input and increase the legitimacy of UNFF processes
- MG contributions could be enhanced by linking major group initiatives with expert groups. This way, major groups would raise points important to their constituencies and in expert group discussions the relevance of the issue and potential means for problem amelioration could be analyzed. This may lead to more actionable outcomes of major group involvement.
- A suggestion could be to have UNFF delegates rotate in the UNFCCC consultations, and ECOSOC meetings, and vice versa. This could trigger more cross-sectoral learning and knowledge transfer.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

- Both initiatives have led to a variety of actions to promote awareness of citizens of the vital role of forests in our economy, in our social life, and for ecological processes.
- More media coverage could have amplified some of the positive responses from countries and civil society.
- Linking public events to current political processes on the occasion of initiatives like the Forest Day and the IYF could further increase their impact on societal awareness, and ultimately influence policy-making processes.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

Adequate

Inadequate X

Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

- **Creating accountability mechanisms to achieve better implementation of commitments.**
- **Emphasizing the cross-sectoral linkages and spill-over benefits of effectively implementing the four GOFs and progressing with the Forest Instrument.**

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure X
GOF1:			
GOF2:			
GOF3:			
GOF4:			

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

- **Creating accountability mechanisms to achieve better implementation of commitments.**
- **Emphasizing the cross-sectoral linkages and spill-over benefits of effectively implementing the four GOFs**

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

- The forest instrument can serve as a framework for possible forest-related SDGs.
- Policy-learning from how implementation occurred in different countries can inform how forest goals can be linked to other benefits for a variety of stakeholders. This may increase uptake and implementation of commitments through SDGs and in the post-2015 development agenda.
- The four GOFs serve as a foundation in constituting indispensable baseline commitments toward a better forest management, increased political priority, and consideration of public benefits when deciding about multi-lateral forest governance.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

Adequate

Inadequate X

Not sure

Additional explanation:

We believe that forests are extremely important to the wellbeing of our planet. Additionally, forests are related to so many other critical issues such as climate change, sustainable development, industry, rights of indigenous peoples, land tenure. In light of all the above, we think we need an extremely strong and robust team at the UNFF. We believe we need to expand the human resources at UNFF and send delegates to every other UN body working on these allied topics. We need more interdisciplinary work across the UN bodies.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

- The forum may be able to embrace its role as a facilitator of the consultation of expert opinion even more than before. Bringing together the CPF members, each with their own objectives and views on forests, to create a common vision is a mandate that the forum could pursue more rigorously.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

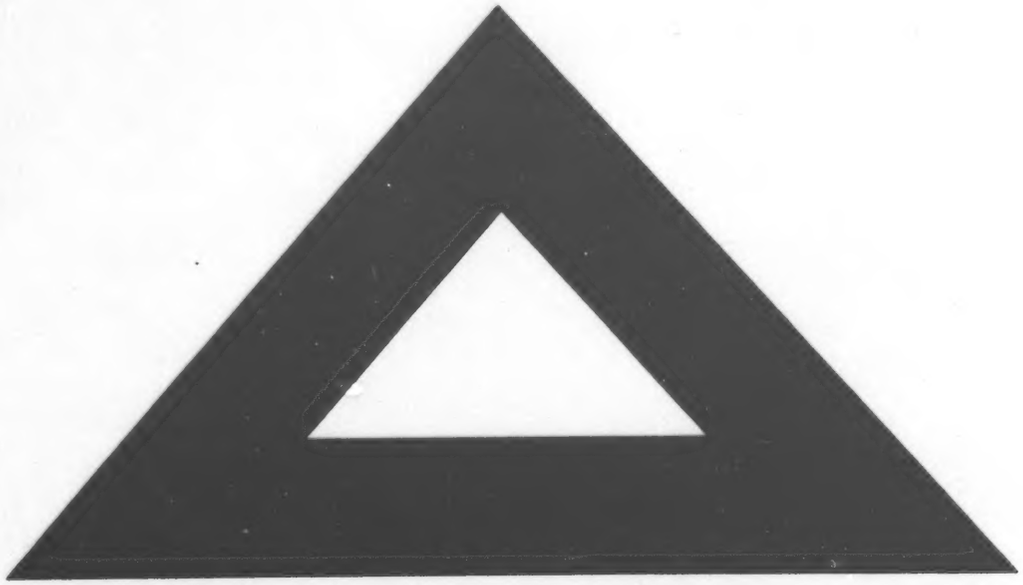
E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

- Input of expert opinion
- Emphasis on the various roles forests play for certain stakeholder groups
- Shaping the discourse of how forests can cater to the agenda of different interest groups.

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

- Besides enhancing public funding for forests, private sector finance needs to be embraced. Some of the distrust toward private involvement in the stewardship and financing of forests needs to be overcome.
- There need to be clear guidelines on how private sector finance can be mobilized. This needs to be done under consideration of the needs of forest communities and safeguards for biodiversity.
- Furthermore, the potential of Public-Private Partnerships should be explored further. A common vision and the potential for mutual benefits should be created by embracing transparency and synergistic agenda-setting.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options: